

Such documents may be handled by people (referred to as "users") and/or by computers operating on behalf of users. The documents may exist both in electronic form for storage and transmission and in paper form for manual handling.

These documents may originate wholly within the organization, or may be created, in whole or in part, from information received from outside the organization. Authorized persons within the organization may choose to release documents, in whole or in part, to entities outside the organization. Some such entities may also employ VDE 100 for document control, whereas others may not.

Document Control Policies

The organization as a whole may have a well-defined policy for access control to, and/or other usage control of documents. This policy may be based on a "lattice model" of information flow, in which documents are characterized as having one or more hierarchical "classification" security attributes 9903 and zero or more non-hierarchical "compartment" security attributes, all of which together comprise a sensitivity security attribute.

The classification attributes may designate the overall level of sensitivity of the document as an element of an ordered set. For example, the set "unclassified," "confidential," "secret,"

"top secret" might be appropriate in a government setting, and the set "public," "internal," "confidential," "registered confidential" might be appropriate in a corporate setting.

The compartment attributes may designate the document's association with one or more specific activities within the organization, such as departmental subdivisions (e.g., "research," "development," "marketing") or specific projects within the organization.

Each person using an electronic appliance 600 would be assigned, by an authorized user, a set of permitted sensitivity attributes to designate those documents, or one or more portions of certain document types, which could be processed in certain one or more ways, by the person's electronic appliance. A document's sensitivity attribute would have to belong to the user's set of permitted sensitivity values to be accessible.

In addition, the organization may desire to permit users to exercise control over specific documents for which the user has some defined responsibility. As an example, a user (the "originating user") may wish to place an "originator controlled" ("ORCON") restriction on a certain document, such that the document may be transmitted and used only by those specific other users whom he designates (and only in certain, expressly

authorized ways). Such a restriction may be flexible if the "distribution list" could be modified after the creation of the document, specifically in the event of someone requesting permission from the originating user to transmit the document outside the original list of authorized recipients. The originating user may wish to permit distribution only to specific users, defined groups of users, defined geographic areas, users authorized to act in specific organizational roles, or a combination of any or all such attributes.

In this example, the organization may also desire to permit users to define a weaker distribution restriction such that access to a document is limited as above, but certain or all information within the document may be extracted and redistributed without further restriction by the recipients.

The organization and/or originating users may wish to know to what uses or geographic locations a document has been distributed. The organization may wish to know where documents with certain protection attributes have been distributed, for example, based on geographic information stored in site configuration records and/or name services records.

A user may wish to request a "return receipt" for a distributed document, or may wish to receive some indication of

how a document has been handled by its recipients (e.g., whether it has been viewed, printed, edited and/or stored), for example, by specifying one or more audit requirements (or methods known to have audit requirements) in a PERC associated with such document(s).

User Environment

In an organization (or association) such as that described above, users may utilize a variety of electronic appliances 600 for processing and managing documents. This may include personal computers, both networked and otherwise, powerful single-user workstations, and servers or mainframe computers. To provide support for the control information described in this example, each electronic appliance that participates in use and management of VDE-protected documents may be enhanced with a VDE secure subsystem supporting an SPE 503 and/or HPE 655.

In some organizations, where the threats to secure operation are relatively low, an HPE 655 may suffice. In other organizations (e.g., government defense), it may be necessary to employ an SPE 503 in all situations where VDE-protected documents are processed. The choice of enhancement environment and technology may be different in different of the organization. Even if different types of PPE 650 are used within

an organization to serve different requirements, they may be compatible and may operate on the same types (or subsets of types) of documents.

Users may employ application programs that are customized to operate in cooperation with the VDE for handling of VDE-protected documents. Examples of this may include VDE-aware document viewers, VDE aware electronic mail systems, and similar applications. Those programs may communicate with the PPE 650 component of a user's electronic appliance 600 to make VDE-protected documents available for use while limiting the extent to which their contents may be copied, stored, viewed, modified, and/or transmitted and/or otherwise further distributed outside the specific electronic appliance.

Users may wish to employ commercial, off-the-shelf ("COTS") operating systems and application programs to process the VDE-protected documents. One approach to permit the use of COTS application programs and operating systems would be to allow such use only for documents without restrictions on redistribution. The standard VDE operating system redirector would allow users to access VDE-protected documents in a manner equivalent to that for files. In such an approach, however, a chain of control for metering and/or auditing use may

be "broken" to some extent at the point that the protected object was made available to the COTS application. The fingerprinting (watermarking) techniques of VDE may be used to facilitate further tracking of any released information.

A variety of techniques may be used to protect printing of protected documents, such as, for example: server-based decryption engines, special fonts for "fingerprinting," etc.

Another approach to supporting COTS software would use the VDE software running on the user's electronic appliance to create one or more "virtual machine" environments in which COTS operating system and application programs may run, but from which no information may be permanently stored or otherwise transmitted except under control of VDE. Such an environment would permit VDE to manage all VDE-protected information, yet may permit unlimited use of COTS applications to process that information within the confines of a restricted environment. The entire contents of such an environment could be treated by VDE 100 as an extension to any VDE-protected documents read into the environment. Transmission of information out of the environment could be governed by the same rules as the original document(s).

"Coarse-Grain" Control Capabilities

As mentioned above, an organization may employ VDE-enforced control capabilities to manage the security, distribution, integrity, and control of entire documents. Some examples of these capabilities may include:

- 1) A communication channel connecting two or more electronic appliances 600 may be assigned a set of permitted sensitivity attributes. Only documents whose sensitivity attributes belong to this set would be permitted to be transmitted over the channel. This could be used to support the Device Labels requirement of the Trusted Computer System Evaluation Criteria (TCSEC).
- 2) A writable storage device (e.g., fixed disk, diskette, tape drive, optical disk) connected to or incorporated in an electronic appliance 600 may be assigned a set of permitted sensitivity attributes. Only documents whose sensitivity attributes belong to this set would be permitted to be stored on the device. This could be used to support the TCSEC Device Labels requirement.

- 3) A document may have a list of users associated with it representing the users who are permitted to "handle" the document. This list of users may represent, for example, the only users who may view the document, even if other users receive the document container, they could not manipulate the contents. This could be used to support the standard ORCON handling caveat.
- 4) A document may have an attribute designating its originator and requiring an explicit permission to be granted by an originator before the document's content could be viewed. This request for permission may be made at the time the document is accessed by a user, or, for example, at the time one user distributes the document to another user. If permission is not granted, the document could not be manipulated or otherwise used.
- 5) A document may have an attribute requiring that each use of the document be reported to the document's originator. This may be used by an originator to gauge the distribution of the document. Optionally, the report may be required to have been made successfully before any use of the document is

permitted, to ensure that the use is known to the controlling party at the time of use. Alternatively, for example, the report could be made in a deferred ("batch") fashion.

- 6) A document may have an attribute requiring that each use of the document be reported to a central document tracking clearinghouse. This could be used by the organization to track specific documents, to identify documents used by any particular user and/or group of users to track documents with specific attributes (e.g., sensitivity), etc. Optionally, for example, the report may be required to have been made successfully before any use of the document is permitted.
- 7) A VDE protected document may have an attribute requiring that each use of the document generate a "return receipt," to an originator. A person using the document may be required to answer specific questions in order to generate a return receipt, for example by indicating why the document is of interest, or by indicating some knowledge of the document's contents (after reading it). This may be used as assurance that the document had been

handled by a person, not by any automated software mechanism.

- 8) A VDE protected document's content may be made available to a VDE-unaware application program in such a way that it is uniquely identifiable (traceable) to a user who caused its release. Thus, if the released form of the document is further distributed, its origin could be determined. This may be done by employing VDE "fingerprinting" for content release. Similarly, a printed VDE protected document may be marked in a similar, VDE fingerprinted unique way such that the person who originally printed the document could be determined, even if copies have since been made.
- 9) Usage of VDE protected documents could be permitted under control of budgets that limit (based on size, time of access, etc.) access or other usage of document content. This may help prevent wholesale disclosure by limiting the number of VDE documents accessible to an individual during a fixed time period. For example, one such control might permit a user, for some particular class of documents, to view at most 100 pages/day, but only print 10

pages/day and permit printing only on weekdays between nine and five. As a further example, a user might be restricted to only a certain quantity of logically related, relatively "contiguous" and/or some other pattern (such as limiting the use of a database's records based upon the quantity of records that share a certain identifier in field) of VDE protected document usage to identify, for example, the occurrence of one or more types of excessive database usage (under normal or any reasonable circumstances). As a result, VDE content providers can restrict usage of VDE content to acceptable usage characteristics and thwart and/or identify (for example, by generating an exception report for a VDE administrator or organization supervisor) user attempts to inappropriately use, for example, such an information database resource.

These control capabilities show some examples of how VDE can be used to provide a flexible, interactive environment for tracking and managing sensitive documents. Such an environment could directly trace the flow of a document from person to person, by physical locations, by organizations, etc. It would also permit specific questions to be answered such as "what persons outside the R&D department have received any

R&D-controlled document.” Because the control information is carried with each copy of a VDE protected document, and can ensure that central registries are updated and/or that originators are notified of document use, tracking can be prompt and accurate.

This contrasts with traditional means of tracking paper documents: typically, a paper-oriented system of manually collected and handled receipts is used. Documents may be individually copy-numbered and signed for, but once distributed are not actively controlled. In a traditional paper-oriented system, it is virtually impossible to determine the real locations of documents; what control can be asserted is possible only if all parties strictly follow the handling rules (which are at best inconvenient).

The situation is no better for processing documents within the context of ordinary computer and network systems. Although said systems can enforce access control information based on user identity, and can provide auditing mechanisms for tracking accesses to files, these are low-level mechanisms that do not permit tracking or controlling the flow of content. In such systems, because document content can be freely copied and manipulated, it is not possible to determine where document content has gone, or where it came from. In addition, because the

control mechanisms in ordinary computer operating systems operate at a low level of abstraction, the entities they control are not necessarily the same as those that are manipulated by users. This particularly causes audit trails to be cluttered with voluminous information describing uninteresting activities.

Fine-Grain* Control Capabilities

In addition to controlling and managing entire documents, users may employ customized VDE-aware application software to control and manage individual modifications to documents.

Examples of these capabilities include the following:

- 1) A VDE content user may be permitted to append further information to a VDE document to indicate a proposed alternative wording. This proposed alteration would be visible to all other users (in addition to the original text) of the document but would (for example) be able to be incorporated into the actual text only by the document's owner.
- 2) A group of VDE users could be permitted to modify one or more parts of a document in such a way that each individual alteration would be unambiguously traceable to the specific user who performed it. The rights to modify certain portions of a document, and

the extension of differing sets of rights to different users, allows an organization or secure environment to provide differing permissions enabling different rights to users of the same content.

- 3) A group of users could create a VDE document incrementally, by building it from individual contributions. These contributions would be bound together within a single controlled document, but each would be individually identified, for example, through their incorporation in VDE content containers as embedded container objects.
- 4) VDE control and management capabilities could be used to track activities related to individual document areas, for instance recording how many times each section of a document was viewed.

Example - VDE Protected Content Repository

As the "Digital Highway" emerges, there is increased discussion concerning the distribution of content across networks and, in particular, public networks such as the Internet. Content may be made available across public networks in several ways including:

- “mailing” content to a user in response to a request or advance purchase (sending a token representing the commitment of electronic funds or credit to purchase an item);
- supporting content downloadable from an organization’s own content repository, such a repository comprising, for example, a store of products (such as software programs) and/or a store of information resources, normally organized into one or more databases; and
- supporting a public repository into which other parties can deposit their products for redistribution to customers (normally by making electronic copies for distribution to a customer in response to a request).

One possible arrangement of VDE nodes involves use of one or more “repositories.” A repository, for example, may serve as a location from which VDE participants may retrieve VDE content containers. In this case, VDE users may make use of a network to gain access to a “server” system that allows one or more VDE users to access an object repository containing VDE content containers.

Some VDE participants may create or provide content and/or VDE content container objects, and then store content and/or content objects at a repository so that other participants may access such content from a known and/or efficiently organized (for retrieval) location. For example, a VDE repository (portion of a VDE repository, multiple VDE repositories, and/or providers of content to such repositories) may advertise the availability of certain types of VDE protected content by sending out email to a list of network users. If the network users have secure VDE subsystems in their electronic appliances, they may then choose to access such a repository directly, or through one or more smart agents and, using an application program for example, browse (and/or electronically search) through the offerings of VDE managed content available at the repository, download desirable VDE content containers, and make use of such containers. If the repository is successful in attracting users who have an interest in such content, VDE content providers may determine that such a repository is a desirable location(s) to make their content available for easy access by users. If a repository, such as CompuServe, stores content in non-encrypted (plaintext) form, it may encrypt "outgoing" content on an "as needed" basis through placing such content in VDE content containers with desired control information, and may employ VDE secure communications techniques for content communication to VDE participants.

VDE repositories may also offer other VDE services. For example, a repository may choose to offer financial services in the form of credit from the repository that may be used to pay fees associated with use of VDE objects obtained from the repository. Alternatively or in addition, a VDE repository may perform audit information clearinghouse services on behalf of VDE creators or other participants (e.g. distributors, redistributors, client administrators, etc.) for usage information reported by VDE users. Such services may include analyzing such usage information, creating reports, collecting payments, etc.

A "full service" VDE repository may be very attractive to both providers and users of VDE managed content. Providers of VDE managed content may desire to place their content in a location that is well known to users, offers credit, and/or performs audit services for them. In this case, providers may be able to focus on creating content, rather than managing the administrative processes associated with making content available in a "retail" fashion, collecting audit information from many VDE users, sending and receiving bills and payments, etc. VDE users may find the convenience of a single location (or an integrated arrangement of repositories) appealing as they are attempting to locate content of interest. In addition, a full service VDE repository may serve as a single location for the reporting of usage information generated as a consequence of their use of

VDE managed content received from a VDE repository and/or, for example, receiving updated software (e.g. VDE-aware applications, load modules, component assemblies, non VDE-aware applications, etc.) VDE repository services may be employed in conjunction with VDE content delivery by broadcast and/or on physical media, such as CD-ROM, to constitute an integrated array of content resources that may be browsed, searched, and/or filtered, as appropriate, to fulfill the content needs of VDE users.

A public repository system may be established and maintained as a non-profit or for-profit service. An organization offering the service may charge a service fee, for example, on a per transaction basis and/or as a percentage of the payments by, and/or cost of, the content to users. A repository service may supply VDE authoring tools to content creators, publishers, distributors, and/or value adding providers such that they may apply rules and controls that define some or all of the guidelines managing use of their content and so that they may place such content into VDE content container objects.

A repository may be maintained at one location or may be distributed across a variety of electronic appliances, such as a variety of servers (e.g. video servers, etc.) which may be at different locations but nonetheless constitute a single resource. A

VDE repository arrangement may employ VDE secure communications and VDE node secure subsystems ("protected processing environments"). The content comprising a given collection or unit of information desired by a user may be spread across a variety of physical locations. For example, content representing a company's closing stock price and the activity (bids, lows, highs, etc.) for the stock might be located at a World Wide Web server in New York, and content representing an analysis of the company (such as a discussions of the company's history, personnel, products, markets, and/or competitors) might be located on a server in Dallas. The content might be stored using VDE mechanisms to secure and audit use. The content might be maintained in clear form if sufficient other forms of security are available at such one or more of sites (e.g. physical security, password, protected operating system, data encryption, or other techniques adequate for a certain content type). In the latter instances, content may be at least in part encrypted and placed in VDE containers as it streams out of a repository so as to enable secure communication and subsequent VDE usage control and usage consequence management.

A user might request information related to such a company including stock and other information. This request might, for example, be routed first through a directory or a more sophisticated database arrangement located in Boston. This

arrangement might contain pointers to, and retrieve content from, both the New York and Dallas repositories. This information content may, for example, be routed directly to the user in two containers (e.g. such as a VDE content container object from Dallas and a VDE content container object from New York). These two containers may form two VDE objects within a single VDE container (which may contain two content objects containing the respective pieces of content from Dallas and New York) when processed by the user's electronic appliance. Alternatively, such objects might be integrated together to form a single VDE container in Boston so that the information can be delivered to the user within a single container to simplify registration and control at the user's site. The information content from both locations may be stored as separate information objects or they may be joined into a single, integrated information object (certain fields and/or categories in an information form or template may be filled in by one resource and other fields and/or categories may be filled by information provided by a different resource). A distributed database may manage such a distributed repository resource environment and use VDE to secure the storing, communicating, auditing, and/or use of information through VDE's electronic enforcement of VDE controls. VDE may then be used to provide both consistent content containers and content control services.

An example of one possible repository arrangement 3300 is shown in Figure 78. In this example, a repository 3302 is connected to a network 3304 that allows authors 3306A, 3306B, 3306C, and 3306D; a publisher 3308; and one or more end users 3310 to communicate with the repository 3302 and with each other. A second network 3312 allows the publisher 3308, authors 3306E and 3306F, an editor 3314, and a librarian 3316 to communicate with each other and with a local repository 3318. The publisher 3308 is also directly connected to author 3306E. In this example, the authors 3306 and publisher 3308 connect to the repository 3302 in order to place their content into an environment in which end users 3310 will be able to gain access to a broad selection of content from a common location.

In this example, the repository has two major functional areas: a content system 3302A and a clearinghouse system 3302B. The content system 3302A is comprised of a user/author registration system 3320, a content catalog 3322, a search mechanism 3324, content storage 3326, content references 3328, and a shipping system 3330 comprised of a controls packager 3322, a container packager 3334, and a transaction system 3336. The clearinghouse system 3302B is comprised of a user/author registration system 3338; template libraries 3340; a control structure library 3342; a disbursement system 3344; an authorization system 3346 comprised of a financial system 3348

and a content system 3350; a billing system 3352 comprised of a paper system 3354, a credit card system 3356, and an electronic funds transfer (EFT) system 3358; and an audit system 3360 comprised of a receipt system 3362, a response system 3364, a transaction system 3366, and an analysis system 3368.

In this example, author 3306A creates content in electronic form that she intends to make broadly available to many end users 3310, and to protect her rights through use of VDE. Author 3306A transmits a message to the repository 3302 indicating her desire to register with the repository to distribute her content. In response to this message, the user/author registration system 3320 of the content system 3302A, and the user/author registration system 3338 of the clearinghouse system 3302B transmit requests for registration information to author 3306A using the network 3304. These requests may be made in an on-line interactive mode; or they may be transmitted in a batch to author 3306A who then completes the requested information and transmits it as a batch to the repository 3302; or some aspects may be handled on-line (such as basic identifying information) and other information may be exchanged in a batch mode.

Registration information related to the content system 3302A may, for example, include:

- a request that Author 3306A provide information concerning the types and/or categories of content proposed for storage and access using the repository,
- the form of abstract and/or other identifying information required by the repository—in addition to providing author 3306A with an opportunity to indicate whether or not author 3306A generally includes other information with content submissions (such as promotional materials, detailed information regarding the format of submitted content, any equipment requirements that should or must be met for potential users of submitted content to successfully exploit its value, etc.),
- requests for information from author 3306A concerning where the content is to be located (stored at the repository, stored at author 3306A's location, stored elsewhere, or some combination of locations),
- what general search characteristics should be associated with content submissions (e.g. whether abstracts should be automatically indexed for searches by users of the repository, the manner in which content titles, abstracts, promotional

materials, relevant dates, names of performers and/or authors, or other information related to content submissions may or should be used in lists of types of content and/or in response to searches, etc.), and/or

- how content that is stored at and/or passed through the repository should be shipped (including any container criteria, encryption requirements, transaction requirements related to content transmissions, other control criteria, etc.)

The information requested from author 3306A by the user/author registration system of the clearinghouse may, for example, consist of:

- VDE templates that author 3306A may or must make use of in order to correctly format control information such that, for example, the audit system 3360 of the clearinghouse system 3302B is properly authorized to receive and/or process usage information related to content submitted by author 3306A,
- VDE control information available from the clearinghouse 3302B that may or must be used by

author 3306A (and/or included by reference) in some or all of the VDE component assemblies created and/or used by author 3306A associated with submitted content,

- the manner in which disbursement of any funds associated with usage of content provided by, passed through, or collected by the repository clearinghouse system 3302B should be made,
- the form and/or criteria of authorizations to use submitted content and/or financial transactions associated with content,
- the acceptable forms of billing for use of content and/or information associated with content (such as analysis reports that may be used by others),
- how VDE generated audit information should be received,
- how responses to requests from users should be managed,

- how transactions associated with the receipt of audit information should be formatted and authorized,
- how and what forms of analysis should be performed on usage information, and/or
- under what circumstances (if any) usage information and/or analysis results derived from VDE controlled content usage information should be managed (including to whom they may or must be delivered, the form of delivery, any control information that may be associated with use of such information, etc.)

The repository 3302 receives the completed registration information from author 3306A and uses this information to build an account profile for author 3306A. In addition, software associated with the authoring process may be transmitted to author 3306A. This software may, for example, allow author 3306A to place content into a VDE content container with appropriate controls in such a way that many of the decisions associated with creating such containers are made automatically to reflect the use of the repository 3302 as a content system and/or a clearinghouse system (for example, the location of content, the party to contact for updates to content and/or controls associated with content, the party or parties to whom

audit information may and/or must be transmitted and the pathways for such communication, the character of audit information that is collected during usage, the forms of payment that are acceptable for use of content, the frequency of audit transmissions required, the frequency of billing, the form of abstract and/or other identifying information associated with content, the nature of at least a portion of content usage control information, etc.)

Author 3306A makes use of a VDE authoring application to specify the controls and the content that she desires to place within a VDE content container, and produces such a container in accordance with any requirements of the repository 3302. Such a VDE authoring application may be, for example, an application provided by the repository 3302 which can help ensure adherence to repository content control requirements such as the inclusion of one or more types of component assemblies or other VDE control structures and/or required parameter data, an application received from another party, and/or an application created by author 3306A in whole or in part. Author 3306A then uses the network 3304 to transmit the container and any deviations from author 3306A's account profile that may relate to such content to the repository 3302. The repository 3302 receives the submitted content, and then -- in accordance with any account profile requirements, deviations and/or desired options in

this example—makes a determination as to whether the content was produced within the boundaries of any content and/or control information requirements of the repository and therefore should be placed within content storage or referenced by a location pointer or the like. In addition to placing the submitted content into content storage or referencing such content's location, the repository 3302 may also make note of characteristics associated with such submitted content in the search mechanism 3324, content references 3328, the shipping system 3330, and/or the relevant systems of the clearinghouse system 3302B related to templates and control structures, authorizations, billing and/or payments, disbursements, and/or audits of usage information.

During an authoring process, author 3306A may make use of VDE templates. Such templates may be used as an aspect of a VDE authoring application. For example, such templates may be used in the construction of a container as described above. Alternatively or in addition, such templates may also be used when submitted content is received by the repository 3302. References to such templates may be incorporated by author 3306A as an aspect of constructing a container for submitted content (in this sense the container delivered to the repository may be in some respects "incomplete" until the repository "completes" the container through use of indicated templates). Such references may be required for use by the repository 3302

(for example, to place VDE control information in place to fulfill an aspect of the repository's business or security models such as one or more map tables corresponding to elements of content necessary for interacting with other VDE control structures to accommodate certain metering, billing, budgeting, and/or other usage and/or distribution related controls of the repository).

For example, if content submitted by author 3306A consists of a periodical publication, a template delivered to the author by the repository 3302 when the author registers at the repository may be used as an aspect of an authoring application manipulated by the author in creating a VDE content container for such a periodical. Alternatively or in addition, a template designed for use with periodical publications may be resident at the repository 3302, and such a template may be used by the repository to define, in whole or in part, control structures associated with such a container. For example, a VDE template designed to assist in formulating control structures for periodical publications might indicate (among other things) that:

- usage controls should include a meter method that records each article within a publication that a user opens,

- a certain flat rate fee should apply to opening the periodical regardless of the number of articles opened, and/or
- a record should be maintained of every advertisement that is viewed by a user.

If content is maintained in a known and/or identifiable format, such a template may be used during initial construction of a container without author 3306A's intervention to identify any map tables that may be required to support such recording and billing actions. If such a VDE template is unavailable to author 3306A, she may choose to indicate that the container submitted should be reconstructed (e.g. augmented) by the repository to include the VDE control information specified in a certain template or class of templates. If the format of the content is known and/or identifiable by the repository, the repository may be able to reconstruct (or "complete") such a container automatically.

One factor in a potentially ongoing financial relationship between the repository and author 3306A may relate to usage of submitted content by end users 3310. For example, author 3306A may negotiate an arrangement with the repository wherein the repository is authorized to keep 20% of the total revenues generated from end users 3310 in exchange for

maintaining the repository services (e.g. making content available to end users 3310, providing electronic credit, performing billing activities, collecting fees, etc.) A financial relationship may be recorded in control structures in flexible and configurable ways. For example, the financial relationship described above could be created in a VDE container and/or installation control structure devised by author 3306A to reflect author 3306A's financial requirements and the need for a 20% split in revenue with the repository wherein all billing activities related to usage of submitted content could be processed by the repository, and control structures representing reciprocal methods associated with various component assemblies required for use of author 3306A's submitted content could be used to calculate the 20% of revenues. Alternatively, the repository may independently and securely add and/or modify control structures originating from author 3306A in order to reflect an increase in price. Under some circumstances, author 3306A may not be directly involved (or have any knowledge of) the actual price that the repository charges for usage activities, and may concern herself only with the amount of revenue and character of usage analysis information that she requires for her own purposes, which she specifies in VDE control information which governs the use, and consequences of use, of VDE controlled content.

Another aspect of the relationship between authors and the repository may involve the character of transaction recording requirements associated with delivery of VDE controlled content and receipt of VDE controlled content usage audit information. For example, author 3306A may require that the repository make a record of each user that receives a copy of content from the repository. Author 3306A may further require collection of information regarding the circumstances of delivery of content to such users (e.g. time, date, etc.) In addition, the repository may elect to perform such transactions for use internally (e.g. to determine patterns of usage to optimize systems, detect fraud, etc.)

In addition to recording information regarding delivery of such VDE controlled content, author 3306A may have required or requested the repository to perform certain VDE container related processes. For example, author 3306A may want differing abstract and/or other descriptive information delivered to different classes of users. In addition, author 3306A may wish to deliver promotional materials in the same container as submitted content depending on, for example, the character of usage exhibited by a particular user (e.g. whether the user has ever received content from author 3306A, whether the user is a regular subscriber to author 3306A's materials, and/or other patterns that may be relevant to author 3306A and/or the end

user that are used to help determine the mix of promotional materials delivered to a certain VDE content end user.) In another example, author 3306A may require that VDE fingerprinting be performed on such content prior to transmission of content to an end user.

In addition to the form and/or character of content shipped to an end user, authors may also require certain encryption related processes to be performed by the repository as an aspect of delivering content. For example, author 3306A may have required that the repository encrypt each copy of shipped content using a different encryption key or keys in order to help maintain greater protection for content (e.g. in case an encryption key was "cracked" or inadvertently disclosed, the "damage" could be limited to the portion(s) of that specific copy of a certain content deliverable). In another example, encryption functions may include the need to use entirely different encryption algorithms and/or techniques in order to fulfill circumstantial requirements (e.g. to comply with export restrictions). In a further example, encryption related processes may include changing the encryption techniques and/or algorithms based on the level of trustedness and/or tamper resistance of the VDE site to which content is delivered.

In addition to transaction information gathered when content is shipped from a VDE repository to an end user, the repository may be required to keep transaction information related to the receipt of usage information, requests, and/or responses to and/or from end users 3310. For example, author 3306A may require the repository to keep a log of some or all connections made by end users 3310 related to transmissions and or reception of information related to the use of author 3306A's content (e.g. end user reporting of audit information, end user requests for additional permissions information, etc.)

Some VDE managed content provided to end users 3310 through the repository may be stored in content storage. Other information may be stored elsewhere, and be referenced through the content references. In the case where content references are used, the repository may manage the user interactions in such a manner that all repository content, whether stored in content storage or elsewhere (such as at another site), is presented for selection by end users 3310 in a uniform way, such as, for example, a consistent or the same user interface. If an end user requests delivery of content that is not stored in content storage, the VDE repository may locate the actual storage site for the content using information stored in content references (e.g. the network address where the content may be located, a URL, a filesystem reference, etc.) After the content is located, the

content may be transmitted across the network to the repository or it may be delivered directly from where it is stored to the requesting end user. In some circumstances (e.g. when container modification is required, when encryption must be changed, if financial transactions are required prior to release, etc.), further processing may be required by the repository in order to prepare such VDE managed content and/or VDE content container for transmission to an end user.

In order to provide a manageable user interface to the content available to VDE repository end users 3310 and to provide administrative information used in the determination of control information packaged in VDE content containers shipped to end users 3310, the repository in this example includes a content catalog 3322. This catalog is used to record information related to the VDE content in content storage, and/or content available through the repository reflected in content references. The content catalog 3322 may consist of titles of content, abstracts, and other identifying information. In addition, the catalog may also indicate the forms of electronic agreement and/or agreement VDE template applications (offering optional, selectable control structures and/or one or more opportunities to provide related parameter data) that are available to end users 3310 through the repository for given pieces of content in deciding, for example, options and/or requirements for: what

type(s) of information is recorded during such content's use, the charge for certain content usage activities, differences in charges based on whether or not certain usage information is recorded and/or made available to the repository and/or content provider, the redistribution rights associated with such content, the reporting frequency for audit transmissions, the forms of credit and/or currency that may be used to pay certain fees associated with use of such content, discounts related to certain volumes of usage, discounts available due to the presence of rights associated with other content from the same and/or different content providers, sales, etc. Furthermore, a VDE repository content catalog 3322 may indicate some or all of the component assemblies that are required in order to make use of content such that the end user's system and the repository can exchange messages to help ensure that any necessary VDE component assemblies or other VDE control information is identified, and if necessary and authorized, are delivered along with such content to the end user (rather than, for example, being requested later after their absence has been detected during a registration and/or use attempt).

In order to make use of the VDE repository in this example, an end user must register with the repository. In a manner similar to that indicated above in the case of an author, a VDE end user transmits a message from her VDE installation to

the repository across the network indicating that she wishes to make use of the services provided by the repository (e.g. access content stored at and/or referenced by the repository, use credit provided by the repository, etc.) In response to this message, the user/author registration systems of the content system 3302A and the clearinghouse system 3302B of the repository transmit requests for information from the end user (e.g. in an on-line and/or batch interaction). The information requested by the user/author registration system of the content system 3302A may include type(s) of content that the user wishes to access, the characteristics of the user's electronic appliance 600, etc. The information requested by the user/author registration system of the clearinghouse system 3302B may include whether the user wishes to establish a credit account with the clearinghouse system 3302B, what other forms of credit the user may wish to use for billing purposes, what other clearinghouses may be used by the end user in the course of interacting with content obtained from the repository, any general rules that the user has established regarding their preferences for release and handling of usage analysis information, etc. Once the end user has completed the registration information and transmitted it to the repository, the repository may construct an account profile for the user. In this example, such requests and responses are handled by secure VDE communications between secure VDE subsystems of both sending and receiving parties.

In order to make use of the repository, the end user may operate application software. In this example, the end user may either make use of a standard application program (e.g. a World Wide Web browser such as Mosaic), or they may make use of application software provided by the repository after completion of the registration process. If the end user chooses to make use of the application software provided by the repository, they may be able to avoid certain complexities of interaction that may occur if a standard package is used. Although standardized packages are often relatively easy to use, a customized package that incorporates VDE aware functionality may provide an easier to use interface for a user. In addition, certain characteristics of the repository may be built in to the interface to simplify use of the services (e.g. similar to the application programs provided by America Online).

The end user may connect to the repository using the network. In this example, after the user connects to the repository, an authentication process will occur. This process can either be directed by the user (e.g. through use of a login and password protocol) or may be established by the end user's electronic appliance secure subsystems interacting with a repository electronic appliance in a VDE authentication. In either event, the repository and the user must initially ensure that they are connected to the correct other party. In this

example, if secured information will flow between the parties, a VDE secured authentication must occur, and a secure session must be established. On the other hand, if the information to be exchanged has already been secured and/or is available without authentication (e.g. certain catalog information, containers that have already been encrypted and do not require special handling, etc.), the "weaker" form of login/password may be used.

Once an end user has connected to the VDE repository and authentication has occurred, the user may begin manipulating and directing their user interface software to browse through a repository content catalog 3322 (e.g. lists of publications, software, games, movies, etc.), use the search mechanism to help locate content of interest, schedule content for delivery, make inquiries of account status, availability of usage analysis information, billing information, registration and account profile information, etc. If a user is connecting to obtain content, the usage requirements for that content may be delivered to them. If the user is connecting to deliver usage information to the repository, information related to that transmission may be delivered to them. Some of these processes are described in more detail below.

In this example, when an end user requests content from the VDE repository (e.g. by selecting from a menu of available

options), the content system 3302A locates the content either in the content references and/or in content storage. The content system 3302A may then refer to information stored in the content catalog 3322, the end user's account profile, and/or the author's account profile to determine the precise nature of container format and/or control information that may be required to create a VDE content container to fulfill the end user's request. The shipping system then accesses the clearinghouse system 3302B to gather any necessary additional control structures to include with the container, to determine any characteristics of the author's and/or end user's account profiles that may influence either the transaction(s) associated with delivering the content to the end user or with whether the transaction may be processed. If the transaction is authorized, and all elements necessary for the container are available, the controls packager forms a package of control information appropriate for this request by this end user, and the container packager takes this package of control information and the content and forms an appropriate container (including any permissions that may be codeliverable with the container, incorporating any encryption requirements, etc.) If required by the repository or the author's account profile, transactions related to delivery of content are recorded by the transaction system of the shipping system. When the container and any transactions related to delivery have been completed, the container is transmitted across the network to the end user.

An end user may make use of credit and/or currency securely stored within the end user's VDE installation secure subsystem to pay for charges related to use of VDE content received from the repository, and/or the user may maintain a secure credit and/or currency account remotely at the repository, including a "virtual" repository where payment is made for the receipt of such content by an end user. This later approach may provide greater assurance for payment to the repository and/or content providers particularly if the end user has only an HPE based secure subsystem. If an end user electronic credit and/or currency account is maintained at the repository in this example, charges are made to said account based on end user receipt of content from the repository. Further charges to such a remote end user account may be made based on end user usage of such received content and based upon content usage information communicated to the repository clearinghouse system 3302B.

In this example, if an end user does not have a relationship established with a financial provider (who has authorized the content providers whose content may be obtained through use of the repository to make use of their currency and/or credit to pay for any usage fees associated with such provider's content) and/or if an end user desires a new source of such credit, the end user may request credit from the repository clearinghouse system 3302B. If an end user is approved for credit, the repository may

extend credit in the form of credit amounts (e.g. recorded in one or more UDEs) associated with a budget method managed by the repository. Periodically, usage information associated with such a budget method is transmitted by the end user to the audit system of the repository. After such a transmission (but potentially before the connection is terminated), an amount owing is recorded for processing by the billing system, and in accordance with the repository's business practices, the amount of credit available for use by the end user may be replenished in the same or subsequent transmission. In this example, the clearinghouse of the repository supports a billing system with a paper system for resolving amounts owed through the mail, a credit card system for resolving amounts owed through charges to one or more credit cards, and an electronic funds transfer system for resolving such amounts through direct debits to a bank account. The repository may automatically make payments determined by the disbursement system for monies owed to authors through use of similar means. Additional detail regarding the audit process is provided below.

As indicated above, end users 3310 in this example will periodically contact the VDE repository to transmit content usage information (e.g. related to consumption of budget, recording of other usage activities, etc.), replenish their budgets, modify their account profile, access usage analysis information, and perform

other administrative and information exchange activities. In some cases, an end user may wish to contact the repository to obtain additional control structures. For example, if an end user has requested and obtained a VDE content container from the repository, that container is typically shipped to the end user along with control structures appropriate to the content, the author's requirements and account profile, the end user's account profile, the content catalog 3322, and/or the circumstances of the delivery (e.g. the first delivery from a particular author, a subscription, a marketing promotion, presence and/or absence of certain advertising materials, requests formulated on behalf of the user by the user's local VDE instance, etc.) Even though, in this example, the repository may have attempted to deliver all relevant control structures, some containers may include controls structures that allow for options that the end user did not anticipate exercising (and the other criteria did not automatically select for inclusion in the container) that the end user nonetheless determines that they would like to exercise. In this case, the end user may wish to contact the repository and request any additional control information (including, for example, control structures) that they will need in order to make use of the content under such option.

For example, if an end user has obtained a VDE content container with an overall control structure that includes an

option that records of the number of times that certain types of accesses are made to the container and further bases usage fees on the number of such accesses, and another option within the overall control structure allows the end user to base the fees paid for access to a particular container based on the length of time spent using the content of the container, and the end user did not originally receive controls that would support this latter form of usage, the repository may deliver such controls at a later time and when requested by the user. In another example, an author may have made changes to their control structures (e.g. to reflect a sale, a new discounting model, a modified business strategy, etc.) which a user may or must receive in order to use the content container with the changed control structures. For example, one or more control structures associated with a certain VDE content container may require a "refresh" for continued authorization to employ such structures, or the control structures may expire. This allows (if desired) a VDE content provider to periodically modify and/or add to VDE control information at an end user's site (employing the local VDE secure subsystem).

Audit information (related to usage of content received from the repository) in this example is securely received from end users 3310 by the receipt system 3362 of the clearinghouse. As indicated above, this system may process the audit information and pass some or all of the output of such a process to the billing

system and/or transmit such output to appropriate content authors. Such passing of audit information employs secure VDE pathway of reporting information handling techniques. Audit information may also be passed to the analysis system in order to produce analysis results related to end user content usage for use by the end user, the repository, third party market researchers, and/or one or more authors. Analysis results may be based on a single audit transmission, a portion of an audit transmission, a collection of audit transmissions from a single end user and/or multiple end users 3310, or some combination of audit transmissions based on the subject of analysis (e.g. usage patterns for a given content element or collection of elements, usage of certain categories of content, payment histories, demographic usage patterns, etc.) The response system 3364 is used to send information to the end user to, for example, replenish a budget, deliver usage controls, update permissions information, and to transmit certain other information and/or messages requested and/or required by an end user in the course of their interaction with the clearinghouse. During the course of an end user's connections and transmissions to and from the clearinghouse, certain transactions (e.g. time, date, and/or purpose of a connection and/or transmission) may be recorded by the transaction system of the audit system to reflect requirements of the repository and/or authors.

Certain audit information may be transmitted to authors. For example, author 3306A may require that certain information gathered from an end user be transmitted to author 3306A with no processing by the audit system. In this case, the fact of the transmission may be recorded by the audit system, but author 3306A may have elected to perform their own usage analysis rather than (or in addition to) permitting the repository to access, otherwise process and/or otherwise use this information. The repository in this example may provide author 3306A with some of the usage information related to the repository's budget method received from one or more end users 3310 and generated by the payment of fees associated with such users' usage of content provided by author 3306A. In this case, author 3306A may be able to compare certain usage information related to content with the usage information related to the repository's budget method for the content to analyze patterns of usage (e.g. to analyze usage in light of fees, detect possible fraud, generate user profile information, etc.) Any usage fees collected by the clearinghouse associated with author 3306A's content that are due to author 3306A will be determined by the disbursement system of the clearinghouse. The disbursement system may include usage information (in complete or summary form) with any payments to author 3306A resulting from such a determination. Such payments and information reporting may be an entirely automated sequence of processes occurring within

the VDE pathway from end user VDE secure subsystems, to the clearinghouse secure subsystem, to the author's secure subsystem.

In this example, end users 3310 may transmit VDE permissions and/or other control information to the repository 3302 permitting and/or denying access to usage information collected by the audit system for use by the analysis system. This, in part, may help ensure end user's privacy rights as it relates to the usage of such information. Some containers may require, as an aspect of their control structures, that an end user make usage information available for analysis purposes. Other containers may give an end user the option of either allowing the usage information to be used for analysis, or denying some or all such uses of such information. Some users may elect to allow analysis of certain information, and deny this permission for other information. End users 3310 in this example may, for example, elect to limit the granularity of information that may be used for analysis purposes (e.g. an end user may allow analysis of the number of movies viewed in a time period but disallow use of specific titles, an end user may allow release of their ZIP code for demographic analysis, but disallow use of their name and address, etc.) Authors and/or the repository 3302 may, for example, choose to charge end users 3310 smaller fees if they agree to release certain usage information for analysis purposes.

In this example, the repository 3302 may receive content produced by more than one author. For example, author B, author C, and author D may each create portions of content that will be delivered to end users 3310 in a single container. For example, author B may produce a reference work. Author C may produce a commentary on author B's reference work, and author D may produce a set of illustrations for author B's reference work and author C's commentary. Author B may collect together author C's and author D's content and add further content (e.g. the reference work described above) and include such content in a single container which is then transmitted to the repository 3302. Alternatively, each of the authors may transmit their works to the repository 3302 independently, with an indication that a template should be used to combine their respective works prior to shipping a container to an end user. Still alternatively, a container reflecting the overall content structure may be transmitted to the repository 3302 and some or all of the content may be referenced in the content references rather than delivered to the repository 3302 for storage in content storage.

When an end user makes use of container content, their content usage information may, for example, be segregated in accordance with control structures that organize usage information based at least in part on the author who created that segment. Alternatively, the authors and/or the VDE repository

3302 may negotiate one or more other techniques for securely dividing and/or sharing usage information in accordance with VDE control information. Furthermore, control structures associated with a container may implement models that differentiate any usage fees associated with portions of content based on usage of particular portions, overall usage of the container, particular patterns of usage, or other mechanism negotiated (or otherwise agreed to) by the authors. Reports of usage information, analysis results, disbursements, and other clearinghouse processes may also be generated in a manner that reflects agreements reached by repository 3302 participants (authors, end users 3310 and/or the repository 3302) with respect to such processes. These agreements may be the result of a VDE control information negotiation amongst these participants.

In this example, one type of author is a publisher 3308. The publisher 3308 in this example communicates over an "internal" network with a VDE based local repository 3302 and over the network described above with the public repository 3302. The publisher 3308 may create or otherwise provide content and/or VDE control structure templates that are delivered to the local repository 3302 for use by other participants who have access to the "internal" network. These templates may be used to describe the structure of containers, and may further describe whom in the publisher 3308's organization may take which

actions with respect to the content created within the organization related to publication for delivery to (and/or referencing by) the repository 3302. For example, the publisher 3308 may decide (and control by use of said template) that a periodical publication will have a certain format with respect to the structure of its content and the types of information that may be included (e.g. text, graphics, multimedia presentations, advertisements, etc.), the relative location and/or order of presentation of its content, the length of certain segments, etc. Furthermore, the publisher 3308 may, for example, determine (through distribution of appropriate permissions) that the publication editor is the only party that may grant permissions to write into the container, and that the organization librarian is the only party that may index and/or abstract the content. In addition, the publisher 3308 may, for example, allow only certain one or more parties to finalize a container for delivery to the repository 3302 in usable form (e.g. by maintaining control over the type of permissions, including distribution permissions, that may be required by the repository 3302 to perform subsequent distribution activities related to repository end users 3310).

In this example, author 3306E is connected directly to the publisher 3308, such that the publisher 3308 can provide templates for that author that establish the character of containers for author 3306E's content. For example, if author

3306E creates books for distribution by the publisher 3308, the publisher 3308 may define the VDE control structure template which provides control method options for author 3306E to select from and which provides VDE control structures for securely distributing author 3306E's works. Author 3306E and the publisher 3308 may employ VDE negotiations for the template characteristics, specific control structures, and/or parameter data used by author 3306E. Author 3306E may then use the template(s) to create control structures for their content containers. The publisher 3308 may then deliver these works to the repository 3302 under a VDE extended agreement comprising electronic agreements between author 3306E and the publisher 3308 and the repository 3302 and the publisher 3308.

In this example, the publisher 3308 may also make author 3306E's work available on the local repository 3302. The editor may authorize (e.g. through distribution of appropriate permissions) author F to create certain portions of content for a publication. In this example, the editor may review and/or modify author F's work and further include it in a container with content provided by author 3306E (available on the local repository 3302). The editor may or may not have permissions from the publisher 3308 to modify author 3306E's content (depending on any negotiation(s) that may have occurred between the publisher 3308 and author 3306E, and the publisher

3308's decision to extend such rights to the editor if permissions to modify author 3306E's content are held in redistributable form by the publisher 3308). The editor may also include content from other authors by (a) using a process of granting permissions to authors to write directly into the containers and/or (b) retrieving containers from the local repository 3302 for inclusion. The local repository 3302 may also be used for other material used by the publisher 3308's organization (e.g. databases, other reference works, internal documents, draft works for review, training videos, etc.), such material may, given appropriate permissions, be employed in VDE container collections of content created by the editor.

The librarian in this example has responsibility for building and/or editing inverted indexes, keyword lists (e.g. from a restricted vocabulary), abstracts of content, revision histories, etc. The publisher 3308 may, for example, grant permissions to only the librarian for creating this type of content. The publisher 3308 may further require that this building and/or editing occur prior to release of content to the repository 3302.

Example -- Evolution and Transformation of VDE Managed Content and Control Information

The VDE content control architecture allows content control information (such as control information for governing content usage) to be shaped to conform to VDE control information requirements of multiple parties. Formulating such multiple party content control information normally involves securely deriving control information from control information securely contributed by parties who play a role in a content handling and control model (e.g. content creator(s), provider(s), user(s), clearinghouse(s), etc.). Multiple party control information may be necessary in order to combine multiple pieces of independently managed VDE content into a single VDE container object (particularly if such independently managed content pieces have differing, for example conflicting, content control information). Such secure combination of VDE managed pieces of content will frequently require VDE's ability to securely derive content control information which accommodates the control information requirements, including any combinatorial rules, of the respective VDE managed pieces of content and reflects an acceptable agreement between such plural control information sets.

The combination of VDE managed content pieces may result in a VDE managed composite of content. Combining VDE

managed content must be carried out in accordance with relevant content control information associated with said content pieces and processed through the use of one or more secure VDE sub-system PPEs 650. VDE's ability to support the embedding, or otherwise combining, of VDE managed content pieces, so as to create a combination product comprised of various pieces of VDE content, enables VDE content providers to optimize their VDE electronic content products. The combining of VDE managed content pieces may result in a VDE content container which "holds" consolidated content and/or concomitant, separate, nested VDE content containers.

VDE's support for creation of content containers holding distinct pieces of VDE content portions that were previously managed separately allows VDE content providers to develop products whose content control information reflects value propositions consistent with the objectives of the providers of content pieces, and further are consistent with the objectives of a content aggregator who may be producing a certain content combination as a product for commercial distribution. For example, a content product "launched" by a certain content provider into a commercial channel (such as a network repository) may be incorporated by different content providers and/or end-users into VDE content containers (so long as such incorporation is allowed by the launched product's content

control information). These different content providers and/or end-users may, for example, submit differing control information for regulating use of such content. They may also combine in different combinations a certain portion of launched content with content received from other parties (and/or produced by themselves) to produce different content collections, given appropriate authorizations.

VDE thus enables copies of a given piece of VDE managed content to be securely combined into differing consolidations of content, each of which reflects a product strategy of a different VDE content aggregator. VDE's content aggregation capability will result in a wider range of competitive electronic content products which offer differing overall collections of content and may employ differing content control information for content that may be common to such multiple products. Importantly, VDE securely and flexibly supports editing the content in, extracting content from, embedding content into, and otherwise shaping the content composition of, VDE content containers. Such capabilities allow VDE supported product models to evolve by progressively reflecting the requirements of "next" participants in an electronic commercial model. As a result, a given piece of VDE managed content, as it moves through pathways of handling and branching, can participate in many different content container and content control information commercial models.

VDE content, and the electronic agreements associated with said content, can be employed and progressively manipulated in commercial ways which reflect traditional business practices for non-electronic products (though VDE supports greater flexibility and efficiency compared with most of such traditional models). Limited only by the VDE control information employed by content creators, other providers, and other pathway of handling and control participants, VDE allows a "natural" and unhindered flow of, and creation of, electronic content product models. VDE provides for this flow of VDE products and services through a network of creators, providers, and users who successively and securely shape and reshape product composition through content combining, extracting, and editing within a Virtual Distribution Environment.

VDE provides means to securely combine content provided at different times, by differing sources, and/or representing differing content types. These types, timings, and/or different sources of content can be employed to form a complex array of content within a VDE content container. For example, a VDE content container may contain a plurality of different content container objects, each containing different content whose usage can be controlled, at least in part, by its own container's set of VDE content control information.

A VDE content container object may, through the use of a secure VDE sub-system, be "safely" embedded within a "parent" VDE content container. This embedding process may involve the creation of an embedded object, or, alternatively, the containing, within a VDE content container, of a previously independent and now embedded object by, at minimum, appropriately referencing said object as to its location.

An embedded content object within a parent VDE content container:

(1) may have been a previously created VDE content container which has been embedded into a parent VDE content container by securely transforming it from an independent to an embedded object through the secure processing of one or more VDE component assemblies within a VDE secure sub-system PPE 650. In this instance, an embedded object may be subject to content control information, including one or more permissions records associated with the parent container, but may not, for example, have its own content control information other than content identification information, or the embedded object may be more extensively controlled by its own content control information (e.g. permissions records).

(2) may include content which was extracted from another VDE content container (along with content control information, as may be applicable) for inclusion into a parent VDE content container in the form of an embedded VDE content container object. In this case, said extraction and embedding may use one or more VDE processes which run securely within a VDE secure sub-system PPE 650 and which may securely remove (or copy) the desired content from a source VDE content container and place such content in a new or existing container object, either of which may be or become embedded into a parent VDE content container.

(3) may include content which was first created and then placed in a VDE content container object. Said receiving container may already be embedded in a parent VDE content container and may already contain other content. The container in which such content is placed may be specified using a VDE aware application which interacts with content and a secure VDE subsystem to securely create such VDE container and place such content therein followed by securely embedding such container into the destination, parent container. Alternatively, content may be specified without the use of a VDE aware application, and then manipulated using a VDE aware

application in order to manage movement of the content into a VDE content container. Such an application may be a VDE aware word processor, desktop and/or multimedia publishing package, graphics and/or presentation package, etc. It may also be an operating system function (e.g. part of a VDE aware operating system or mini-application operating with an O/S such as a Microsoft Windows compatible object packaging application) and movement of content from "outside" VDE to within a VDE object may, for example, be based on a "drag and drop" metaphor that involves "dragging" a file to a VDE container object using a pointing device such as a mouse. Alternatively, a user may "cut" a portion of content and "paste" such a portion into a VDE container by first placing content into a "clipboard," then selecting a target content object and pasting the content into such an object. Such processes may, at the direction of VDE content control information and under the control of a VDE secure subsystem, put the content automatically at some position in the target object, such as at the end of the object or in a portion of the object that corresponds to an identifier carried by or with the content such as a field identifier, or the embedding process might pop-up a user interface that allows a user to browse a target object's contents and/or table of contents and/or other directories, indexes, etc. Such processes may further

allow a user to make certain decisions concerning VDE content control information (budgets limiting use, reporting pathway(s), usage registration requirements, etc.) to be applied to such embedded content and/or may involve selecting the specific location for embedding the content, all such processes to be performed as transparently as practical for the application.

(4) may be accessed in conjunction with one or more operating system utilities for object embedding and linking, such as utilities conforming to the Microsoft OLE standard. In this case, a VDE container may be associated with an OLE "link." Accesses (including reading content from, and writing content to) to a VDE protected container may be passed from an OLE aware application to a VDE aware OLE application that accesses protected content in conjunction with control information associated with such content.

A VDE aware application may also interact with component assemblies within a PPE to allow direct editing of the content of a VDE container, whether the content is in a parent or embedded VDE content container. This may include the use of a VDE aware word processor, for example, to directly edit (add to, delete, or otherwise modify) a VDE container's content. The

secure VDE processes underlying VDE container content editing may be largely or entirely transparent to the editor (user) and may transparently enable the editor to securely browse through (using a VDE aware application) some or all of the contents of, and securely modify one or more of the VDE content containers embedded in, a VDE content container hierarchy.

The embedding processes for all VDE embedded content containers normally involves securely identifying the appropriate content control information for the embedded content. For example, VDE content control information for a VDE installation and/or a VDE content container may securely, and transparently to an embedder (user), apply the same content control information to edited (such as modified or additional) container content as is applied to one or more portions (including all, for example) of previously "in place" content of said container and/or securely apply control information generated through a VDE control information negotiation between control sets, and/or it may apply control information previously applied to said content. Application of control information may occur regardless of whether the edited content is in a parent or embedded container. This same capability of securely applying content control information (which may be automatically and/or transparently applied), may also be employed with content that is embedded into a VDE container through extracting and embedding content,

or through the moving, or copying and embedding, of VDE container objects. Application of content control information normally occurs securely within one or more VDE secure sub-system PPEs 650. This process may employ a VDE template that enables a user, through easy to use GUI user interface tools, to specify VDE content control information for certain or all embedded content, and which may include menu driven, user selectable and/or definable options, such as picking amongst alternative control methods (e.g. between different forms of metering) which may be represented by different icons picturing (symbolizing) different control functions and apply such functions to an increment of VDE secured content, such as an embedded object listed on an object directory display.

Extracting content from a VDE content container, or editing or otherwise creating VDE content with a VDE aware application, provides content which may be placed within a new VDE content container object for embedding into said parent VDE container, or such content may be directly placed into a previously existing content container. All of these processes may be managed by processing VDE content control information within one or more VDE installation secure sub-systems.

VDE content container objects may be embedded in a parent object through control information referenced by a parent

object permissions record that resolves said embedded object's location and/or contents. In this case, little or no change to the embedded object's previously existing content control information may be required. VDE securely managed content which is relocated to a certain VDE content container may be relocated through the use of VDE sub-system secure processes which may, for example, continue to maintain relocated content as encrypted or otherwise protected (e.g. by secure tamper resistant barrier 502) during a relocation/embedding process.

Embedded content (and/or content objects) may have been contributed by different parties and may be integrated into a VDE container through a VDE content and content control information integration process securely managed through the use of one or more secure VDE subsystems. This process may, for example, involve one or more of:

- (1.) securely applying instructions controlling the embedding and/or use of said submitted content, wherein said instructions were securely put in place, at least in part, by a content provider and/or user of said VDE container. For example, said user and/or provider may interact with one or more user interfaces offering a selection of content embedding and/or control options (e.g. in the form of a VDE template). Such options may include which, and/or whether, one or more controls should

be applied to one or more portions of said content and/or the entry of content control parameter data (such a time period before which said content may not be used, cost of use of content, and/or pricing discount control parameters such as software program suite sale discounting). Once required and/or optional content control information is established by a provider and/or user, it may function as content control information which may be, in part or in full, applied automatically to certain, or all, content which is embedded in a VDE content container.

(2.) secure VDE managed negotiation activities, including the use of a user interface interaction between a user at a receiving VDE installation and VDE content control information associated with the content being submitted for embedding. For example, such associated control information may propose certain content information and the content receiver may, for example, accept, select from a plurality, reject, offer alternative control information, and/or apply conditions to the use of certain content control information (for example, accept a certain one or more controls if said content is used by a certain one or more users and/or if the volume of usage of certain content exceeds a certain level).

(3.) a secure, automated, VDE electronic negotiation process involving VDE content control information of the

receiving VDE content container and/or VDE installation and content control information associated with the submitted content (such as control information in a permissions record of a contributed VDE object, certain component assemblies, parameter data in one or more UDEs and/or MDEs, etc.).

Content embedded into a VDE content container may be embedded in the form of:

(1.) content that is directly, securely integrated into previously existing content of a VDE content container (said container may be a parent or embedded content container) without the formation of a new container object. Content control information associated with said content after embedding must be consistent with any pre-embedding content control information controlling, at least in part, the establishment of control information required after embedding. Content control information for such directly integrated, embedded content may be integrated into, and/or otherwise comprise a portion of, control information (e.g. in one or more permissions records containing content control information) for said VDE container, and/or

(2.) content that is integrated into said container in one or more objects which are nested within said VDE content container object. In this instance, control information for said content may

be carried by either the content control information for the parent VDE content container, or it may, for example, be in part or in full carried by one or more permissions records contained within and/or specifically associated with one or more content containing nested VDE objects. Such nesting of VDE content containing objects within a parent VDE content container may employ a number of levels, that is a VDE content container nested in a VDE content container may itself contain one or more nested VDE content containers.

VDE content containers may have a nested structure comprising one or more nested containers (objects) that may themselves store further containers and/or one or more types of content, for example, text, images, audio, and/or any other type of electronic information (object content may be specified by content control information referencing, for example, byte offset locations on storage media). Such content may be stored, communicated, and/or used in stream (such as dynamically accumulating and/or flowing) and/or static (fixed, such as predefined, complete file) form. Such content may be derived by extracting a subset of the content of one or more VDE content containers to directly produce one or more resulting VDE content containers. VDE securely managed content (e.g. through the use of a VDE aware application or operating system having extraction capability) may be identified for extraction from each of one or more

locations within one or more VDE content containers and may then be securely embedded into a new or existing VDE content container through processes executing VDE controls in a secure subsystem PPE 650. Such extraction and embedding (VDE "exporting") involves securely protecting, including securely executing, the VDE exporting processes.

A VDE activity related to VDE exporting and embedding involves performing one or more transformations of VDE content from one secure form to one or more other secure forms. Such transformation(s) may be performed with or without moving transformed content to a new VDE content container (e.g. by component assemblies operating within a PPE that do not reveal, in unprotected form, the results or other output of such transforming processes without further VDE processes governing use of at least a portion of said content). One example of such a transformation process may involve performing mathematical transformations and producing results, such as mathematical results, while retaining, none, some, or all of the content information on which said transformation was performed. Other examples of such transformations include converting a document format (such as from a WordPerfect format to a Word for Windows format, or an SGML document to a Postscript document), changing a video format (such as a QuickTime video format to a MPEG video format), performing an artificial

intelligence process (such as analyzing text to produce a summary report), and other processing that derives VDE secured content from other VDE secured content.

Figure 79 shows an example of an arrangement of commercial VDE users. The users in this example create, distribute, redistribute, and use content in a variety of ways. This example shows how certain aspects of control information associated with content may evolve as control information passes through a chain of handling and control. These VDE users and controls are explained in more detail below.

Creator A in this example creates a VDE container and provides associated content control information that includes references (amongst other things) to several examples of possible "types" of VDE control information. In order to help illustrate this example, some of the VDE control information passed to another VDE participant is grouped into three categories in the following more detailed discussion: distribution control information, redistribution control information, and usage control information. In this example, a fourth category of embedding control information can be considered an element of all three of the preceding categories. Other groupings of control information are possible (VDE does not require organizing control information in this way). The content control information associated with this

example of a container created by creator A is indicated on Figure 80 as C_A . Figure 80 further shows the VDE participants who may receive enabling control information related to creator A's VDE content container. Some of the control information in this example is explained in more detail below.

Some of the distribution control information (in this example, control information primarily associated with creation, modification, and/or use of control information by distributors) specified by creator A includes: (a) distributors will compensate creator A for each active user of the content of the container at the rate of \$10 per user per month, (b) distributors are budgeted such that they may allow no more than 100 independent users to gain access to such content (i.e. may create no more than 100 permissions records reflecting content access rights) without replenishing this budget, and (c) no distribution rights may be passed on in enabling control information (e.g. permissions records and associated component assemblies) created for distribution to other participants.

Some of the content redistribution control information (in this example, control information produced by a distributor within the scope permitted by a more senior participant in a chain of handling and control and passed to user/providers (in this example, user/distributors) and associated with controls

and/or other requirements associated with redistribution activities by such user/distributors) specified by creator A includes: (a) a requirement that control information enabling content access may be redistributed by user/distributors no more than 2 levels, and further requires that each redistribution decrease this value by one, such that a first redistributor is restricted to two levels of redistribution, and a second redistributor to whom the first redistributor delivers permissions will be restricted to one additional level of redistribution, and users receiving permissions from the second redistributor will be unable to perform further redistribution (such a restriction may be enforced, for example, by including as one aspect of a VDE control method associated with creating new permissions a requirement to invoke one or more methods that: (i) locate the current level of redistribution stored, for example, as an integer value in a UDE associated with such one or more methods, (ii) compare the level of redistribution value to a limiting value, and (iii) if such level of redistribution value is less than the limiting value, increment such level of redistribution value by one before delivering such a UDE to a user as an aspect of content control information associated with VDE managed content, or fail the process if such value is equal to such a limiting value), and (b) no other special restrictions are placed on redistributors.

Some of the usage control information (in this example, control information that a creator requires a distributor to provide in control information passed to users and/or user/distributors) specified by creator A may include, for example: (a) no moves (a form of distribution explained elsewhere in this document) of the content are permitted, and (b) distributors will be required to preserve (at a minimum) sufficient metering information within usage permissions in order to calculate the number of users who have accessed the container in a month and to prevent further usage after a rental has expired (e.g. by using a meter method designed to report access usages to creator A through a chain of handling and reporting, and/or the use of expiration dates and/or time-aged encryption keys within a permissions record or other required control information).

Some of the extracting and/or embedding control information specified by creator A in this example may include a requirement that no extracting and/or embedding of the content is or will be permitted by parties in a chain of handling and control associated with this control information, except for users who have no redistribution rights related to such VDE secured content provided by Creator A. Alternatively, or in addition, as regards different portions of said content, control information enabling certain extraction and/or embedding may be provided

along with the redistribution rights described in this example for use by user/distributors (who may include user content aggregators, that is they may provide content created by, and/or received from, different sources so as to create their own content products).

Distributor A in this example has selected a basic approach that distributor A prefers when offering enabling content control information to users and/or user/distributors that favors rental of content access rights over other approaches. In this example, some of the control information provided by creators will permit distributor A to fulfill this favored approach directly, and other control structures may disallow this favored approach (unless, for example, distributor A completes a successful VDE negotiation allowing such an approach and supporting appropriate control information). Many of the control structures received by distributor A, in this example, are derived from (and reflect the results of) a VDE negotiation process in which distributor A indicates a preference for distribution control information that authorizes the creation of usage control information reflecting rental based usage rights. Such distribution control information may allow distributor A to introduce and/or modify control structures provided by creators in such a way as to create control information for distribution to users and/or user/distributors that, in effect, "rent" access rights. Furthermore, distributor A in

this example services requests from user/distributors for redistribution rights, and therefore also favors distribution control information negotiated (or otherwise agreed to) with creators that permits distributor A to include such rights as an aspect of control information produced by distributor A.

In this example, distributor A and creator A may use VDE to negotiate (for example, VDE negotiate) for a distribution relationship. Since in this example creator A has produced a VDE content container and associated control information that indicates creator A's desire to receive compensation based on rental of usage rights, and such control information further indicates that creator A has placed acceptable restrictions in redistribution control information that distributor A may use to service requests from user/distributors, distributor A may accept creator A's distribution control information without any negotiated changes.

After receiving enabling distribution control information from creator A, distributor A may manipulate an application program to specify some or all of the particulars of usage control information for users and/or user/distributors enabled by distributor A (as allowed, or not prevented, by senior control information). Distributor A may, for example, determine that a price of \$15 per month per user would meet distributor A's

business objectives with respect to payments from users for creator A's container. Distributor A must specify usage control information that fulfill the requirements of the distribution control information given to distributor A by creator A. For example, distributor A may include any required expiration dates and/or time-aged encryption keys in the specification of control information in accordance with creator A's requirements. If distributor A failed to include such information (or to meet other requirements) in their specification of control information, the control method(s) referenced in creator A's permissions record and securely invoked within a PPE 650 to actually create this control information would, in this example, fail to execute in the desired way (e.g. based on checks of proposed values in certain fields, a requirement that certain methods be included in permissions, etc.) until acceptable information were included in distributor A's control information specification.

In this example, user A may have established an account with distributor A such that user A may receive VDE managed content usage control information from distributor A. User A may receive content usage control information from distributor A to access and use creator A's content. Since the usage control information has passed through (and been added to, and/or modified by) a chain of handling including distributor A, the usage control information requested from distributor A to make

use of creator A's content will, in this example, reflect a composite of control information from creator A and distributor A. For example, creator A may have established a meter method that will generate an audit record if a user accesses creator A's VDE controlled content container if the user has not previously accessed the container within the same calendar month (e.g. by storing the date of the user's last access in a UDE associated with an open container event referenced in a method core of such a meter method and comparing such a date upon subsequent access to determine if such access has occurred within the same calendar month). Distributor A may make use of such a meter method in a control method (e.g. also created and/or provided by creator A, or created and/or provided by distributor A) associated with opening creator A's container that invokes one or more billing and/or budget methods created, modified, referenced in one or more permissions records and/or parameterized by distributor A to reflect a charge for monthly usage as described above. If distributor A has specified usage and/or redistribution control information within the boundaries permitted by creator A's senior control information, a new set of control information (shown as $D_A(C_A)$ in Figure 80) may be associated with creator A's VDE content container when control information associated with that container by distributor A are delivered to users and/or user/distributors (user A, user B, and user/distributor A in this example).

In this example, user A may receive control information related to creator A's VDE content container from distributor A. This control information may represent an extended agreement between user A and distributor A (e.g. regarding fees associated with use of content, limited redistribution rights, etc.) and distributor A and creator A (e.g. regarding the character, extent, handling, reporting, and/or other aspects of the use and/or creation of VDE controlled content usage information and/or content control information received, for example, by distributor A from creator A, or vice versa, or in other VDE content usage information handling). Such an extended agreement is enforced by processes operating within a secure subsystem of each participant's VDE installation. The portion of such an extended agreement representing control information of creator A as modified by distributor A in this example is represented by $D_A(C_A)$, including, for example, (a) control structures (e.g. one or more component assemblies, one or more permissions records, etc.), (b) the recording of usage information generated in the course of using creator A's content in conformance with requirements stated in such control information, (c) making payments (including automatic electronic credit and/or currency payments "executed" in response to such usage) as a consequence of such usage (wherein such consequences may also include electronically, securely and automatically receiving a bill delivered through use of VDE, wherein such a bill is derived from

said usage), (d) other actions by user A and/or a VDE secure subsystem at user A's VDE installation that are a consequence of such usage and/or such control information.

In addition to control information $D_A(C_A)$, user A may enforce her own control information on her usage of creator A's VDE content container (within the limits of senior content control information). This control information may include, for example, (a) transaction, session, time based, and/or other thresholds placed on usage such that if such thresholds (e.g. quantity limits, for example, self imposed limits on the amount of expenditure per activity parameter) are exceeded user A must give explicit approval before continuing, (b) privacy requirements of user A with respect to the recording and/or transmission of certain usage related details relating to user A's usage of creator A's content, (c) backup requirements that user A places on herself in order to help ensure a preservation of value remaining in creator A's content container and/or local store of electronic credit and/or currency that might otherwise be lost due to system failure or other causes. The right to perform in some or all of these examples of user A's control information, in some examples, may be negotiated with distributor A. Other such user specified control information may be enforced independent of any control information received from any content provider and may be set in relationship to a user's, or more generally, a VDE installation's,

control information for one or more classes, or for all classes, of content and/or electronic appliance usage. The entire set of VDE control information that may be in place during user A's usage of creator A's content container is referred to on Figure 80 as $U_A(D_A(C_A))$. This set may represent the control information originated by creator A, as modified by distributor A, as further modified by user A, all in accordance with control information from value chain parties providing more senior control information, and therefore constitutes, for this example, a "complete" VDE extended agreement between user A, distributor A, and creator A regarding creator A's VDE content container. User B may, for example, also receive such control information $D_A(C_A)$ from distributor A, and add her own control information in authorized ways to form the set $U_B(D_A(C_A))$.

User/distributor A may also receive VDE control information from distributor A related to creator A's VDE content container. User/distributor A may, for example, both use creator A's content as a user and act as a redistributor of control information. In this example, control information $D_A(C_A)$ both enables and limits these two activities. To the extent permitted by $D_A(C_A)$, user/distributor A may create their own control information based on $D_A(C_A)$ -- $UD_A(D_A(C_A))$ -- that controls both user/distributor A's usage (in a manner similar to that described above in connection with user A and user B), and control

information redistributed by user/distributor A (in a manner similar to that described above in connection with distributor A). For example, if user/distributor A redistributes $UD_A(D_A(C_A))$ to user/distributor B, user/distributor B may be required to report certain usage information to user/distributor A that was not required by either creator A or distributor A. Alternatively or in addition, user/distributor B may, for example, agree to pay user/distributor A a fee to use creator A's content based on the number of minutes user/distributor B uses creator A's content (rather than the monthly fee charged to user/distributor A by distributor A for user/distributor B's usage).

In this example, user/distributor A may distribute control information $UD_A(D_A(C_A))$ to user/distributor B that permits user/distributor B to further redistribute control information associated with creator A's content. User/distributor B may make a new set of control information $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$. If the control information $UD_A(D_A(C_A))$ permits user/distributor B to redistribute, the restrictions on redistribution from creator A in this example will prohibit the set $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$ from including further redistribution rights (e.g. providing redistribution rights to user B) because the chain of handling from distributor A to user/distributor A (distribution) and the continuation of that chain from user/distributor A to user/distributor B (first level of redistribution) and the further

continuation of that chain to another user represents two levels of redistribution, and, therefore, a set $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$ may not, in this example, include further redistribution rights.

As indicated in Figure 79, user B may employ content from both user/distributor B and distributor A (amongst others). In this example, as illustrated in Figure 80, user B may receive control information associated with creator A's content from distributor A and/or user/distributor B. In either case, user B may be able to establish their own control information on $D_A(C_A)$ and/or $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$, respectively (if allowed by such control information. The resulting set(s) of control information, $U_B(D_A(C_A))$ and/or $U_B(UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A))))$ respectively, may represent different control scenarios, each of which may have benefits for user B. As described in connection with an earlier example, user B may have received control information from user/distributor B along a chain of handling including user/distributor A that bases fees on the number of minutes that user B makes use of creator A's content (and requiring user/distributor A to pay fees of \$15 per month per user to distributor A regardless of the amount of usage by user B in a calendar month). This may be more favorable under some circumstances than the fees required by a direct use of control information provided by distributor A, but may also have the disadvantage of an exhausted chain of redistribution and, for

example, further usage information reporting requirements included in $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$. If the two sets of control information $D_A(C_A)$ and $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$ permit (e.g. do not require exclusivity enforced, for example, by using a registration interval in an object registry used by a secure subsystem of user B's VDE installation to prevent deregistration and reregistration of different sets of control information related to a certain container (or registration of plural copies of the same content having different control information and/or being supplied by different content providers) within a particular interval of time as an aspect of an extended agreement for a chain of handling and control reflected in $D_A(C_A)$ and/or $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_A)))$), user B may have both sets of control information registered and may make use of the set that they find preferable under a given usage scenario.

In this example, creator B creates a VDE content container and associates a set of VDE control information with such container indicated in Figure 81 as C_B . Figure 81 further shows the VDE participants who may receive enabling control information related to creator B's VDE content container. In this example, control information may indicate that distributors of creator B's content: (a) must pay creator B \$0.50 per kilobyte of information decrypted by users and/or user/distributors authorized by such a distributor, (b) may allow users and/or

user/distributors to embed their content container in another container while maintaining a requirement that creator B receive \$0.50 per kilobyte of content decrypted, (c) have no restrictions on the number of enabling control information sets that may be generated for users and/or user/distributors, (d) must report information concerning the number of such distributed control information sets at certain time intervals (e.g. at least once per month), (e) may create control information that allows users and/or user/distributors to perform up to three moves of their control information, (f) may allow redistribution of control information by user/distributors up to three levels of redistribution, (g) may allow up to one move per user receiving redistributed control information from a user/distributor.

In this example, distributor A may request control information from creator B that enables distributor A to distribute control information to users and/or user/distributors that is associated with the VDE container described above in connection with creator B. As stated earlier, distributor A has established a business model that favors "rental" of access rights to users and user/distributors receiving such rights from distributor A. Creator B's distribution control information in this example does not force a model including "rental" of rights, but rather bases payment amounts on the quantity of content decrypted by a user or user/distributor. In this example,

distributor A may use VDE to negotiate with creator B to include a different usage information recording model allowed by creator B. This model may be based on including one or more meter methods in control structures associated with creator B's container that will record the number of bytes decrypted by end users, but not charge users a fee based on such decryptions; rather distributor A proposes, and creator B's control information agrees to allow, a "rental" model to charge users, and determines the amount of payments to creator B based on information recorded by the bytes decrypted meter methods and/or collections of payment from users.

Creator B may, for example, (a) accept such a new control model with distributor A acting as the auditor (e.g. trusting a control method associated with processing audit information received by distributor A from users of creator B's content using a VDE secure subsystem at distributor A's site, and further to securely calculate amounts owed by distributor A to creator B and, for example, making payments to creator B using a mutually acceptable budget method managing payments to creator B from credit and/or currency held by distributor A), (b) accept such a new control model based on distributor A's acceptance of a third party to perform all audit functions associated with this content, (c) may accept such a model if information associated with the one or more meter methods that

record the number of bytes decrypted by users is securely packaged by distributor B's VDE secure subsystem and is securely, employing VDE communications techniques, sent to creator B in addition to distributor A, and/or (d) other mutually acceptable conditions. Control information produced by distributor A based on modifications performed by distributor A as permitted by C_B are referred to in this example as $D_A(C_B)$.

User A may receive a set of control information $D_A(C_B)$ from distributor A. As indicated above in connection with content received from creator A via a chain of handling including distributor A, user A may apply their own control information to the control information $D_A(C_B)$, to the extent permitted by $D_A(C_B)$, to produce a set of control information $U_A(D_A(C_B))$. The set of control information $D_A(C_B)$ may include one or more meter methods that record the number of bytes of content from creator B's container decrypted by user A (in order to allow correct calculation of amounts owed by distributor A to creator B for user A's usage of creator B's content in accordance with the control information of C_B that requires payment of \$0.50 per kilobyte of decrypted information), and a further meter method associated with recording usage such that distributor A may gather sufficient information to securely generate billings associated with user A's usage of creator B's content and based on a "rental" model (e.g. distributor A may, for example, have included a meter

method that records each calendar month that user A makes use of creator B's content, and relates to further control information that charges user A \$10 per month for each such month during which user A makes use of such content.)

User/distributor A may receive control information C_B directly from creator B. In this case, creator B may use VDE to negotiate with user/distributor A and deliver a set of control information C_B that may be the same or differ from that described above in connection with the distribution relationship established between creator B and distributor A. For example, user/distributor A may receive control information C_B that includes a requirement that user/distributor A pay creator B for content decrypted by user/distributor A (and any participant receiving distributed and/or redistributed control information from user/distributor A) at the rate of \$0.50 per kilobyte. As indicated above, user/distributor A also may receive control information associated with creator B's VDE content container from distributor A. In this example, user/distributor A may have a choice between paying a "rental" fee through a chain of handling passing through distributor A, and a fee based on the quantity of decryption through a chain of handling direct to creator B. In this case, user/distributor A may have the ability to choose to use either or both of C_B and $D_A(C_B)$. As indicated earlier in connection with a chain of handling including creator A

and distributor A, user/distributor A may apply her own control information to the extent permitted by C_B and/or $D_A(C_B)$ to form the sets of control information $UD_A(C_B)$ and $UD_A(D_A(C_B))$, respectively.

As illustrated in Figure 81, in this example, user B may receive control information associated with creator B's VDE content container from six different sources: C_B directly from creator B, $D_A(C_B)$ from distributor A, $UD_B(UD_A(D_A(C_B)))$ and/or $UD_B(UD_A(C_B))$ from user/distributor B, $D_C(C_B)$ from distributor C, and/or $D_B(D_C(C_B))$ from distributor B. This represents six chains of handling through which user B may enter into extended agreements with other participants in this example. Two of these chains pass through user/distributor B. Based on a VDE negotiation between user/distributor B and user B, an extended agreement may be reached (if permitted by control information governing both parties) that reflects the conditions under which user B may use one or both sets of control information. In this example, two chains of handling and control may "converge" at user/distributor B, and then pass to user B (and if control information permits, later diverge once again based on distribution and/or redistribution by user B).

In this example, creator C produces one or more sets of control information C_C associated with a VDE content container

created by creator C, as shown in Figure 82. Figure 82 further shows the VDE participants who may receive enabling control information related to creator C's VDE content container. The content in such a container is, in this example, organized into a set of text articles. In this example control information may include one or more component assemblies that describe the articles within such a container (e.g. one or more event methods referencing map tables and/or algorithms that describe the extent of each article). C_C may further include, for example: (a) a requirement that distributors ensure that creator C receive \$1 per article accessed by users and/or user/distributors, which payment allows a user to access such an article for a period of no more than six months (e.g. using a map-type meter method that is aged once per month, time aged decryption keys, expiration dates associated with relevant permissions records, etc.), (b) control information that allows articles from creator C's container to be extracted and embedded into another container for a one time charge per extract/embed of \$10, (c) prohibits extracted/embedded articles from being reextracted, (d) permits distributors to create enabling control information for up to 1000 users or user/distributors per month, (e) requires that information regarding the number of users and user/distributors enabled by a distributor be reported to creator C at least once per week, (f) permits distributors to enable users or user/distributors

to perform up to one move of enabling control information, and
(g) permits up to 2 levels of redistribution by user/distributors.

In this example, distributor B may establish a distribution relationship with creator C. Distributor B in this example may have established a business model that favors the distribution of control information to users and user/distributors that bases payments to distributor B based on the number of accesses performed by such VDE participants. In this example, distributor B may create a modified set $D_B(C_C)$ of enabling control information for distribution to users and/or user/distributors. This set $D_B(C_C)$ may, for example, be based on a negotiation using VDE to establish a fee of \$0.10 per access per user for users and/or user/distributors who receive control information from distributor B. For example, if one or more map-type meter methods have been included in C_C to ensure that adequate information may be gathered from users and/or user/distributors to ensure correct payments to creator C by distributor B based on C_C , such methods may be preserved in the set $D_B(C_C)$, and one or more further meter methods (and any other necessary control structures such as billing and/or budget methods) may be included to record each access such that the set $D_B(C_C)$ will also ensure that distributor B will receive payments based on each access.

The client administrator in this example may receive a set of content control information $D_B(C_C)$ that differs, for example, from control information received by user B from distributor B. For example, the client administrator may use VDE to negotiate with distributor B to establish a set of control information for content from all creators for whom distributor B may provide enabling content control information to the client administrator. For example, the client administrator may receive a set of control information $D_B(C_C)$ that reflects the results of a VDE negotiation between the client administrator and distributor B. The client administrator may include a set of modifications to $D_B(C_C)$ and form a new set $CA(D_B(C_C))$ that includes control information that may only be available to users and user/distributors within the same organization as the client administrator (e.g. coworkers, employees, consultants, etc.) In order to enforce such an arrangement, $CA(D_B(C_C))$ may, for example, include control structures that examine name services information associated with a user or user/distributor during registration, establish a new budget method administered by the client administrator and required for use of the content, etc.

A distributor may provide redistribution rights to a client administrator which allows said administrator to redistribute rights to create permissions records for certain content (redistribute rights to use said content) only within the

administrator's organization and to no other parties. Similarly, such administrator may extend such a "limited" right to redistribute to department and/or other administrator within his organization such that they may redistribute such rights to use content based on one or more restricted lists of individuals and/or classes and/or other groupings of organization personnel as defined by said administrator. This VDE capability to limit redistribution to certain one or more parties and/or classes and/or other groupings of VDE users and/or installations can be applied to content by any VDE content provider, so long as such a control is allowed by senior control information.

User D in this example may receive control information from either the client administrator and/or user/distributor C. User/distributor C may, for example, distribute control information $UD_C(CA(D_B(C_C)))$ to user D that includes a departmental budget method managed by user/distributor C to allow user/distributor C to maintain an additional level of control over the actions of user D. In this case, $UD_C(CA(D_B(C_C)))$ may include multiple levels of organizational controls (e.g. controls originating with the client administrator and further controls originating with user/distributor C) in addition to controls resulting from a commercial distribution channel. In addition or alternatively, the client administrator may refuse to distribute certain classes of control information to user D even if the client

administrator has adequate control information (e.g. control information distributed to user/distributor C that allows redistribution to users such as user D) to help ensure that control information flows through the client administrator's organization in accordance with policies, procedures, and/or other administrative processes.

In this example, user E may receive control information from the client administrator and/or distributor B. For example, user E may have an account with distributor B even though some control information may be received from the client administrator. In this case, user E may be permitted to request and receive control information from distributor B without restriction, or the client administrator may have, as a matter of organizational policy, control information in place associated with user E's electronic appliance that limits the scope of user E's interaction with distributor B. In the latter case, the client administrator may, for example, have limited user E to registering control information with the secure subsystem of user E's electronic appliance that is not available from the client administrator, is from one or more certain classes of distributors and/or creators, and/or has a cost for usage, such as a certain price point (e.g. \$50 per hour of usage). Alternatively or in addition, the client administrator may, for example, limit user E to receiving control information from distributor B in which user

E receives a more favorable price (or other control information criteria) than the price (or other criteria) available in control information from the client administrator.

In this example, creator D may create a VDE content container that is designed primarily for integration with other content (e.g. through use of a VDE extracting/embedding process), for example, content provided by creator B and creator C. Figure 83 shows the VDE participants who may receive enabling control information related a VDE content container produced by creator D. Control information associated with creator D's content (C_D in Figure 83) may include, for example: (a) a requirement that distributors make payment of either \$1.50 per open per user, or \$25 per user for an unlimited number of opens, (b) a discount of 20% for any user that has previously paid for an unlimited number of opens for certain other content created by creator D (e.g. implemented by including one or more billing methods that analyze a secure database of a user's VDE installation to determine if any of such certain other containers are registered, and further determines the character of rights held by a user purchasing rights to this container), (c) a requirement that distributors report the number of users and user/distributors enabled by control information produced in accordance with C_D after such number exceeds 1000, (d) a requirement that distributors limit the number of moves by users

and/or user/distributors to no more than one, (e) a requirement that distributors limit user/distributors to no more than four levels of redistribution, and (f) that distributors may create enabling control information that permits other distributors to create control information as distributors, but may not pass this capability to such enabled distributors, and further requires that audit information associated with use of control information by such enabled distributors shall pass directly to creator D without processing by such enabling distributor and that creator D shall pay such an enabling distributor 10% of any payments received by creator D from such an enabled distributor.

In this example, distributor C may receive VDE content containers from creator B, creator C, and creator D, and associated sets of control information C_B , C_C , and C_D . Distributor C may use the embedding control information and other control information to produce a new container with two or more VDE objects received from creator B, creator C, and creator D. In addition or alternatively, distributor C may create enabling control information for distribution to users and/or user/distributors (or in the case of C_D , for distributors) for such received containers individually. For example, distributor C may create a container including content portions (e.g. embedded containers) from creator B, creator C, and creator D in which each such portion has control information related to its access

and use that records, and allows an auditor to gather, sufficient information for each such creator to securely and reliably receive payments from distributor C based on usage activities related to users and/or user/distributors enabled by distributor C.

Furthermore, distributor C may negotiate using VDE with some or all of such creators to enable a model in which distributor C provides overall control information for the entire container based on a "uniform" fee (e.g. calculated per month, per access, from a combined model, etc.) charged to users and/or user/distributors, while preserving the models of each such creator with respect to payments due to them by distributor C based on C_B , C_C , and/or C_D , and, for example, resulting from each of their differing models for the collection of content usage information and any related (e.g. advertising) information.

In this example, distributor B may receive a VDE content container and associated content control information C_E from creator E as shown in Figure 83. If C_E permits, distributor B may extract a portion of the content in such a container.

Distributor B may then, for example, embed this portion in a container received from distributor C that contains an aggregation of VDE objects created by creator B, creator C, and creator D. Depending on the particular restrictions and/or permissions in the sets of control information received from each creator and distributor C, distributor B may, for example, be able

to embed such an extracted portion into the container received from distributor C as an independent VDE object, or directly into content of "in place" objects from creator B, creator C, and/or creator D. Alternatively, or in addition, distributor B may, if permitted by C_E, choose to distribute such an extracted portion of content as an independent VDE object.

User B may, in this example, receive a VDE content container from distributor C that is comprised of VDE objects created by creator B, creator C, and creator D. In addition, user B may receive a VDE content container from distributor B that contains the same content created by creator B, creator C, and creator D in addition to one or more extracted/embedded portions of content created by creator E. User B may base decisions concerning which of such containers they choose to use (including which embedded containers she may wish to use), and under which circumstances, based on, for example, the character of such extracted/embedded portions (e.g. multimedia presentations illustrating potential areas of interest in the remainder of the content, commentary explaining and/or expositing other elements of content, related works, improved application software delivered as an element of content, etc.); the quality, utility, and/or price (or other attributes of control information) of such portions; and other considerations which distinguish the

containers and/or content control information received, in this example, from distributor B and distributor C.

User B may receive content control information from distributor B for such a VDE content container that permits user B to add and/or modify content contained therein. User B may, for example, desire an ability to annotate content in such a container using a VDE aware word processor or other application(s). If permitted by senior control information, some or all of the content may be available to user B for modification and/or additions. In this case, user B is acting as a VDE creator for added and/or modified content. User B may, for example, provide new control information for such content, or may be required (or desire to) make use of existing control information (or control information included by senior members of a chain of handling for this purpose) to manage such content (based on control information related to such a container and/or contained objects).

In this example, VDE 100 has been used to enable an environment including, for example, content distribution, redistribution, aggregation (extracting and/or embedding), reaggregation, modification, and usage. The environment in this example allows competitive models in which both control information and content may be negotiated for and have different

particulars based on the chain of handling through which control information and/or content has been passed. Furthermore, the environment in this example permits content to be added to, and/or modified by, VDE participants receiving control information that enables such activities.

Example -- Content Distribution Through a Content VDE Chain of Handling

Figure 84 reflects certain aspects of a relatively simple model 3400 of VDE content distribution involving several categories of VDE participants. In this instance, and for simplicity of reference purposes, various portions of content are represented as discrete items in the form of VDE content container objects. One or more of such content portions may also be integrated together in a single object and may (as may the contents of any VDE content container object if allowed by content control information) be extracted in whole or part by a user. In this example, publishers of historical/educational multimedia content have created VDE content containers through the use of content objects available from three content resources:

- a Video Library 3402 product available to Publishers on optical discs and containing video clip VDE objects representing various historical situations,
- an Internet Repository 3404 which stores history information text and picture resources in VDE objects which are available for downloading to Publishers and other users, and

- an Audio Library 3406, also available on optical discs, and containing various pieces of musical performances and vocal performances (for example, historical narrations) which can be used alone or to accompany other educational historical materials.

The information provided in library 3402, repository 3404, and library 3406 may be provided to different publishers 3408(a), 3408(b), ..., 3408(n). Publishers 3408 may, in turn, provide some or all of the information they obtain to end users 3410.

In this example, the Video Library 3402 control information allows publishers to extract objects from the Video Library product container and content control information enabling use of each extracted object during a calendar year if the object has a license cost of \$50 or less, and is shorter than 45 minutes in duration, and 20,000 copies of each of any other extracted objects, and further requires all video objects to be VDE fingerprinted upon decryption. The Audio Library 3404 has established similar controls that match its business model. The Internet Repository 3406 VDE containerizes, including encrypts, selected object content as it streams out of the Repository in response to an online, user request to download an object. The Repository 3406 may fingerprint the identification of the receiving VDE installation into its content prior to encryption

and communication to a publisher, and may further require user identification fingerprinting of their content when decrypted by said Publisher or other content user.

The Publishers 3408 in this example have selected, under terms and conditions VDE negotiated (or otherwise agreed to) with the providing resources, various content pieces which they combine together to form their VDE object container products for their teacher customers. Publisher 3408(A) has combined video objects extracted from the Video Library 3402 (as indicated by circles), text and image objects extracted from the Internet Repository 3404 (indicated by diamonds), and one musical piece and one historical narration extracted from the Audio Library 3406 (as indicated by rectangles). Publisher 3408(B) has extracted a similar array of objects to be combined into his product, and has further added graphical elements (indicated by a hexagon) created by Publisher 3408(B) to enhance the product. Publisher 3408(C) has also created a product by combining objects from the Internet Repository 3404 and the Audio Library 3406. In this example, all publisher products are delivered, on their respective optical discs, in the form of VDE content container objects with embedded objects, to a modern high school for installation on the high school's computer network.

In this particular example, End-Users 3410 are teachers who use their VDE node's secure subsystems to access the VDE installation on their high school server that supports the publishers' products (in an alternative example, the high school may maintain only a server based VDE installation). These teachers license the VDE products from one or more of the publishers and extract desired objects from the VDE product content containers and either download the extracted VDE content in the form of VDE content containers for storage on their classroom computers and/or as appropriate and/or efficient. The teachers may store extracted content in the form of VDE content containers on server mass storage (and/or if desired and available to an end-user, and further according to acceptable pricing and/or other terms and conditions and/or senior content control information, they may store extracted information in "clear" unencrypted form on their nodes' and/or server storage means). This allows the teachers to play, and/or otherwise use, the selected portions of said publishers' products, and as shown in two instances in this example, add further teacher and/or student created content to said objects. End-user 3410(2), for example, has selected a video piece 1 received from Publisher A, who received said object from the Video Library. End-user 3410(3) has also received a video piece 3 from the same Publisher 3408(A) wherein said piece was also available to her from Publisher 3408(B), but perhaps under not as favorable terms and

conditions (such as a support consultation telephone line). In addition, end-user 3410(3) has received an audio historical narration from Publisher 3408(B) which corresponds to the content of historical reference piece 7. End-user 3410(3) has also received a corresponding historical reference piece 7 (a book) from publisher 3408(2) who received said book from the Internet Repository 3404. In this instance, perhaps publisher 3408(2) charged less for said book because end-user 3410(3) has also licensed historical reference piece 7 from him, rather than publisher 3408(1), who also carried the same book. End-user 3410(3), as a teacher, has selected the items she considers most appropriate for her classes and, through use of VDE, has been able to flexibly extract such items from resources available to her (in this instance, extracting objects from various optical products provided by publishers and available on the local high school network server).

Example -- Distribution of Content Control Information Within an Organization

Figure 85 shows two VDE content containers, Container 300(A) and Container 300(B), that have been distributed to a VDE Client Administrator 3450 in a large organization. As shown in the figure, Container 300(A) and Container 300(B), as they arrive at the corporation, carry certain control information specifying available usage rights for the organization. As can be further seen in Figure 85, the client administrator 3450 has distributed certain subsets of these rights to certain department administrators 3452 of her organization, such as Sales and Marketing Administrator 3452(1), Planning Administrator 3452(2), and Research and Development Administrator 3452(k). In each instance, the Client Administrator 3450 has decided which usage options and how much budget should be made available to each department.

Figure 85 is a simplified example and, for example, the Client Administrator 3450 could have added further VDE controls created by herself and/or modified and/or deleted in place controls (if allowed by senior content control information) and/or (if allowed by control information) she could have further divided the available monetary budget (or other budgets) among specific usage activities. In this example, departmental administrators have the same rights to determine the rights of departmental

end-users as the client administrator has in regard to departments. In addition, in this example (but not shown in Figure 85) the client administrator 3450 and/or content provider(s) may also determine certain control information which must directly control (including providing rights related to) end-user content usage and/or the consequences of said usage for all or certain classes of end-users. In the example shown in Figure 85, there are only three levels of VDE participants within the organization:

- a Client Administrator 3450,
- department administrators 3452, and
- end-users 3454.

In other examples, VDE will support many levels of VDE administration (including overlapping groups) within an organization (e.g., division, department, project, network, group, end-users, etc). In addition, administrators in a VDE model may also themselves be VDE content users.

Within an organization, VDE installations may be at each end-user 3454 node, only on servers or other multiple user computers or other electronic appliances, or there may be a mixed environment. Determination as to the mix of VDE server and/or node usage may be based on organization and/or content provider security, performance, cost overhead, or other considerations.

In this example, communications between VDE participants in Figure 85 employs VDE secure communication techniques between VDE secure subsystems supporting PPEs and other VDE secure system components at each VDE installation within the organization.

Example -- Another Content Distribution Example

Creators of VDE protected content may interact with other VDE participants in many different ways. A VDE creator 102 may, for example, distribute content and/or content control information directly to users, distribute content and/or content control information to commercial content repositories, distribute content and/or content control information to corporate content repositories, and/or distribute content and/or content control information to other VDE participants. If a creator 102 does not interact directly with all users of her content, she may transmit distribution permissions to other VDE participants that permit such participants to further distribute content and/or content control information. She may also allow further distribution of VDE content and/or content control information by, for example, not restricting redistribution of control information, or allowing a VDE participant to act as a "conduit" for one or more permissions records that can be passed along to another party, wherein said permissions record provides for including the identification of the first receiving party and/or the second receiving party.

Figure 86 shows one possible arrangement of VDE participants. In this example, creator 102 may employ one or more application software programs and one or more VDE secure subsystems to place unencrypted content into VDE protected

form (i.e., into one or more VDE content containers). In addition, creator 102 may produce one or more distribution permissions 3502 and/or usage permissions 3500 as an aspect of control information associated with such VDE protected content. Such distribution and/or usage permissions 3500, 3502 may be the same (e.g., all distribution permissions may have substantively all the same characteristics), or they may differ based on the category and/or class of participant for whom they are produced, the circumstances under which they are requested and/or transmitted, changing content control models of either creator 102 or a recipient, etc.

In this example, creator 102 transmits (e.g., over a network, via broadcast, and/or through transfer of physical media) VDE protected content to user 112a, user 112b, and/or user 112c. In addition, creator 102 transmits, using VDE secure communications techniques, usage permissions to such users. User 112a, user 112b, and user 112c may use such VDE protected content within the restrictions of control information specified by usage permissions received from creator 102. In this case, creator 102 may, for example, manage all aspects of such users activities related to VDE protected content transmitted to them by creator 102. Alternatively, creator 102 may, for example, include references to control information that must be

available to users that is not provided by creator 102 (e.g., component assemblies managed by another party).

Commercial content repository 200g, in this example, may receive VDE protected (or otherwise securely delivered) content and distribution, permissions and/or other content usage control information from creator 102. Commercial content repository 200g may store content securely such that users may obtain such, when any required conditions are met, content from the repository 200g. The distribution permissions 3502 may, for example, permit commercial content repository 200g to create redistribution permissions and/or usage permissions 3500, 3502 using a VDE protected subsystem within certain restrictions described in content control information received from creator 102 (e.g., not to exceed a certain number of copies, requiring certain payments by commercial content repository 200g to creator 102, requiring recipients of such permissions to meet certain reporting requirements related to content usage information, etc.). Such content control information may be stored at the repository installation and be applied to unencrypted content as it is transmitted from said repository in response to a user request, wherein said content is placed into a VDE container as a step in a secure process of communicating such content to a user. Redistribution permissions may, for example, permit a recipient of such permissions to create a

certain number of usage permissions within certain restrictions (e.g., only to members of the same household, business other organization, etc.). Repository 200g may, for example, be required by control information received from creator 102 to gather and report content usage information from all VDE participants to whom the repository has distributed permissions.

In this example, power user 112d may receive VDE protected content and redistribution permissions from commercial content repository 200g using the desktop computer 3504. Power user 112d may, for example, then use application software in conjunction with a VDE secure subsystem of such desktop computer 3504 in order to produce usage permissions for the desktop computer 3504, laptop computer 3506 and/or settop appliance 3508 (assuming redistribution permissions received from commercial content repository 200g permit such activities). If permitted by senior control information (for example, from creator 102 as may be modified by the repository 200g), power user 112d may add her own restrictions to such usage permissions (e.g., restricting certain members of power user 112d's household using the settop appliance to certain times of day, amounts of usage, etc. based on their user identification information). Power user 112d may then transmit such VDE protected content and usage permissions to the laptop computer 3506 and the settop appliance 3508 using VDE secure

communications techniques. In this case, power user 112d has redistributed permissions from the desktop computer 3504 to the settop appliance 3508 and the laptop computer 3506, and periodically the settop appliance and the laptop computer may be required to report content usage information to the desktop computer, which in turn may aggregate, and/or otherwise process, and report user usage information to the repository 200g.

User 112e and/or user 112f may receive usage permissions and VDE protected content from commercial content repository 200g. These users may be able to use such content in ways authorized by such usage information. In contrast to power user 112d, these users may not have requested and/or received redistribution permissions from the repository 200g. In this case, these users may still be able to transfer some or all usage rights to another electronic appliance 600, and/or they may be permitted to move some of their rights to another electronic appliance, if such transferring and/or moving is permitted by the usage permissions received from the repository 200g. In this case, such other appliances may be able to report usage information directly to the repository 200g.

In this example, corporate content repository 702 within corporation 700 may receive VDE protected content and

distribution permissions from creator 102. The distribution permissions received by corporate repository 702 may, for example, include restrictions that limit repository 702 to distribution activities within corporation 700.

The repository 702 may, for example, employ an automated system operating in conjunction with a VDE secure subsystem to receive and/or transmit VDE protected content, and/or redistribution and/or usage permissions. In this case, an automated system may, for example, rely on criteria defined by corporate policies, departmental policies, and/or user preferences to determine the character of permissions and/or content delivered to various parties (corporation groups and/or individuals) within corporation 700. Such a system may, for example, automatically produce redistribution permissions for a departmental content repository 704 in response to corporation 700 receiving distribution permissions from creator 102, and/or produce usage permissions for user 112j and/or user 112k.

The departmental repository 704 may automatically produce usage permissions for user 112g, user 112h, and/or user 112i. Such users may access content from the corporate content repository 702, yet receive usage permissions from departmental repository 704. In this case, user 112g, user 112h, and/or user 112i may receive usage permissions from departmental

repository 704 that incorporate departmental restrictions in addition to restrictions imposed by senior control information (in this example, from creator 102, as may be modified by corporate repository 702, as may be further modified by departmental repository 704, that reflect a VDE extended agreement incorporating commercial requirements of creator 102 and corporation 700 in addition to corporate and/or departmental policies and agreements with corporate personnel of corporation 700).

Example—"Virtual Silicon Container"

As discussed above, VDE in one example provides a "virtual silicon container" ("virtual black box") in that several different instances of SPU 500 may securely communicate together to provide an overall secure hardware environment that "virtually" exists at multiple locations and multiple electronic appliances 600. Figure 87 shows one model 3600 of a virtual silicon container. This virtual container model 3600 includes a content creator 102, a content distributor 106, one or more content redistributors 106a, one or more client administrators 700, one or more client users 3602, and one or more clearinghouses 116. Each of these various VDE participants has an electronic appliance 600 including a protected processing environment 655 that may comprise, at least in part, a silicon-based semiconductor hardware element secure processing unit

500. The various SPUs 500 each encapsulate a part of the virtual distribution environment, and thus, together form the virtual silicon container 3600.

Example -- Testing/Examinations

A scheduled SAT examination for high school seniors is prepared by the Educational Testing Service. The examination is placed in a VDE container for scheduled release on November 15, 1994 at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard time. The SAT prepares one copy of the container for each school or other location which will conduct the examination. The school or other location ("test site") will be provided with a distributed examination container securely containing the VDE identification for the "administration" electronic appliance and/or test administrator at the test site (such as, a testing organization) and a budget enabling, for example, the creation of 200 test VDE content containers. Each container created at the test site may have a permissions record containing secure identification information for each electronic appliance 600, on the test site's network, that will be used by a test taker, as well as, for example, an identification for the student who will take the test. The student identification could, for example, be in the form of a secure PIN password which is entered by the student prior to taking the test (a test monitor or administrator might verify the student

identification by entering in a PIN password). Of course, identification might take the form of automated voice recognition, handwriting recognition (signature recognition), fingerprint information, eye recognition, or similar one or more recognition forms which may be used either to confirm the identity of the test taker (and/or test monitor/administrator) and/or may be stored with the test results in a VDE container or the like or in a location pointed to by certain container information. This identification may be stored in encrypted or unencrypted form. If stored in encrypted or otherwise protected form, certain summary information, such as error correction information, may be stored with the identification information to authenticate the associated test as corresponding to the identification.

As the student takes the test using the computer terminal, the answers selected may be immediately securely stored (but may be changed by the student during the test session). Upon the completion of the test, the student's answers, along with a reference to the test, are securely stored in a VDE reporting object which is passed along to the network to the test administrator and the administration electronic appliance 600. All test objects for all students could then be placed in a VDE object 300 for communication to the Educational Testing Service, along with whatever other relevant information (which may also be secured by VDE 100), including summary information giving

average and mean scores, and other information that might be desirable to summarize and/or act as an authentication of the test objects sent. For example, certain information might be sent separately from each student summary object containing information which helps validate the object as an "authentic" test object.

Applying VDE to testing scenarios would largely eliminate cheating resulting from access to tests prior to testing (normally the tests are stolen from a teacher or test administrator). At ETS, individuals who have access to tests could be limited to only a portion of the test to eliminate the risk of the theft of a "whole" test. Employing VDE would also ensure against processing errors or other manipulation of test answers, since absolutely authentic test results can be archived for a reasonable period of time.

Overall, employing VDE 100 for electronic testing will enable the benefits of electronic testing to be provided without the substantial risks associated with electronic storing, communicating, and processing of test materials and testing results. Electronic testing will provide enormous efficiency improvements, significantly lowering the cost of conducting and processing tests by eliminating printing, shipping, handling, and human processing of tests. At the same time, electronic testing

will allow users to receive a copy (encrypted or unencrypted) of their test results when they leave the test sessions. This will help protect the tested individual against lost of, or improperly processed, test results. Electronic testing employing VDE 100 may also ensure that timing related variables of testing (for example precise starting, duration, and stopping times) can be reliably managed. And, of course, proper use of VDE 100 for the testing process can prevent improper access to test contents prior to testing and ensure that test taking is properly audited and authenticated, that is which person took which test, at which time, on which electronic appliance, at which location. Retesting due to lost, stolen, improperly timed, or other variables can be avoided or eliminated.

VDE assisted testing may, of course, be employed for many different applications including secure identification of individuals for security/authentication purposes, for employment (e.g. applying for jobs) applications, and for a full range of evaluation testing. For example, an airline pilot, or a truck, train, or bus driver might take a test immediately prior to departure or during travel, with the test evaluating alertness to test for fatigue, drug use, etc. A certain test may have a different order and/or combination of test activities each time, or each group of times, the test is taken. The test or a master test might be stored in a VDE container (the order of, and which, test

questions might be determined by a process executed securely within an PPE 650). The test responses may be encrypted as they occur and either locally stored for aggregated (or other test result) transmission or dynamically transmitted (for example, to a central test administration computer). If the test taker "flunks" the test, perhaps he or she is then prevented from operating the vehicle, either by a local PPE 650 issuing control instructions to that effect on some portion of the vehicle's electronic control system or a local PPE failing to decrypt or otherwise provide certain key information required for vehicle operation.

Example -- Appliance Rental

Through use of the present invention, electronic appliances can be "leased" or otherwise provided to customers who, rather than purchasing a given appliance for unlimited usage, may acquire the appliance (such as a VCR, television, microwave oven, etc.) and be charged according to one or more aspects of use. For example, the charge for a microwave might be for each time it is used to prepare an item and/or for the duration of time used. A telephone jack could be attached, either consistently or periodically, to an inexpensive modem operatively attached or within the microwave (the modem might alternatively be located at a location which services a plurality of items and/or functions -- such as burglar alarm, light and/or heat control). Alternatively,

such appliances may make use of a network formed by the power cables in a building to transmit and receive signals.

At a periodic interval, usage information (in summary form and/or detailed) could be automatically sent to a remote information utility that collects information on appliance usage (the utility might service a certain brand, a certain type of appliance, and/or a collection of brands and/or types). The usage information would be sent in VDE form (e.g. as a VDE object 300). The information utility might then distribute information to financial clearinghouse(s) if it did not itself perform the billing function, or the information "belonging" to each appliance manufacturer and/or lessor (retailer) might be sent to them or to their agents. In this way a new industry would be enabled of leased usage of appliances where the leases might be analogous to car leasing.

With VDE installed, appliances could also be managed by secure identification (PIN, voice or signature recognition, etc.). This might be required each time a unit is used, or on some periodic basis. Failure to use the secure identification or use it on a timely basis could disable an appliance if a PPE 650 issued one or more instructions (or failed to decrypt or otherwise provide certain information critical to appliance operation) that prevented use of a portion or all of the appliance's functions.

This feature would greatly reduce the desirability of stealing an electronic appliance. A further, allied use of VDE is the "registration" of a VDE secure subsystem in a given appliance with a VDE secure subsystem at some control location in a home or business. This control location might also be responsible for VDE remote communications and/or centralized administration (including, for example, restricting your children from viewing R rated movies either on television or videocassettes through the recognition of data indicating that a given movie, song, channel, game, etc. was R rated and allowing a parent to restrict viewing or listening). Such a control location may, for example, also gather information on consumption of water, gas, electricity, telephone usage, etc. (either through use of PPEs 650 integrated in control means for measuring and/or controlling such consumption, or through one or more signals generated by non-VDE systems and delivered to a VDE secure subsystem, for example, for processing, usage control (e.g. usage limiting), and/or billing), transmit such information to one or more utilities, pay for such consumption using VDE secured electronic currency and/or credit, etc.

In addition, one or more budgets for usage could be managed by VDE which would prevent improper, excessive use of a certain, leased appliance, that might, for example lead to failure of the appliance, such as making far more copies using a

photocopier than specified by the duty cycle. Such improper use could result in a message, for example on a display panel or television screen, or in the form of a communication from a central clearinghouse, that the user should upgrade to a more robust model.

While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiment, but on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for secure content delivery including:

- a) encapsulating digital information within one or more digital containers;
- b) encrypting at least one portion of said digital information;
- c) associating at least partially secure control information for managing interaction with said encrypted digital information and/or the digital container;
- d) delivering one or more of said one or more digital containers to a digital information user;
- e) employing a protected processing environment for securely controlling decryption of at least a portion of said digital information.

2. A system for secure content delivery including:

encrypting means for encrypting at least one portion of digital information;

container processing means for encapsulating digital information within one or more digital containers and for associating at least partially secure control information for managing interaction with said encrypted digital information;

delivery means for delivering one or more of said one or more digital containers to a digital information user; and
at least one protected processing environment for securely controlling decryption of at least a portion of said digital information.

3. A method for secure digital information delivery characterized by the steps of: (a) encrypting at least a portion of said digital information through the use of a first at least one VDE node, (b) creating and encrypting, through the use of said first at least one VDE node, control information to control use of at least a portion of said digital information by plural, users, (c) securely providing said control information to said plural users, and (d) employing at least one VDE node different from said first at least one VDE node to process at least portions of said control information and to control use of said encrypted digital information by said users.

4. A system for secure digital information delivery characterized by:

a first at least one VDE node for encrypting at least a portion of said digital information,

means for creating and encrypting, through the use of said first at least one VDE node, control information to control use of at least a portion of said digital information by plural, users,

means for securely providing said control information to said plural users, and

at least one VDE node different from said first at least one VDE node for processing at least portions of said control information and to control use of said encrypted digital information by said users.

5. A method for secure content delivery wherein at least partially encrypted content is encapsulated within at least one digital container and the digital container is delivered to a digital information user, the method characterized by the steps of:

associating, with the encapsulated content and/or the digital container, at least partially secure control information for managing interaction with the container and/or the content; and

employing a protected processing environment for securely controlling decryption of at least a portion of the encrypted content based at least in part on the control information.

6. A system for secure content delivery wherein at least partially encrypted content is encapsulated within at least one digital container and the digital container is delivered to a digital information user, the system characterized by:

a data structure that associates, with the encapsulated content and/or the digital container, at least partially secure

control information for managing interaction with the information; and

a protected processing environment for securely controlling decryption of at least a portion of the encrypted content based at least in part on the control information.

7. A method for secure digital information delivery characterized by the steps of: (a) encrypting at least a portion of said digital information, (b) associating protected control information to at least a portion of said digital information, and c) providing at least a portion of said encrypted digital information to a first user and at least in part controlling use of at least a portion of said encrypted digital information through the use of at least a portion of said protected control information, wherein said first user further provides at least one of (a) a copy of said at least a portion of said encrypted digital information, or (b) said encrypted digital information, to a second user, and wherein said second user associates further control information with said encrypted digital information for use in controlling use of said encrypted digital information by a third user.

8. A system for secure digital information delivery characterized by:

means for encrypting at least a portion of said digital information,

means for associating protected control information to at least a portion of said digital information,

means for providing at least a portion of said encrypted digital information to a first user

means for at least in part controlling use of at least a portion of said encrypted digital information through the use of at least a portion of said protected control information,

means for allowing the first user to provide at least one of (a) a copy of said at least a portion of said encrypted digital information, or (b) said encrypted digital information, to a second user, and

means for allowing said second user to associate further control information with said encrypted digital information for use in controlling use of said encrypted digital information by a third user.

9. A method for secure digital transaction management including:

- a) encrypting digital information at a first location;
- b) enabling a first party to securely associate at least one control with said information for use in ensuring at least one consequence of use of said information;
- c) enabling one or more additional parties to securely associate at least one further control with said

information for use in ensuring at least one
consequence of use of said information;

- d) distributing at least a portion of said information to
a party other than the first and additional parties at
a location different from the locations of the first and
additional locations; and
- f) decrypting at least a portion of said information at
said third location, and ensuring said consequences
of use of said information.

10. A system for secure digital transaction management
including interconnected structures for performing the following
functions:

- a) encrypting digital information;
- b) enabling a first party to securely associate at least
one control with said information for use in ensuring
at least one consequence of use of said information;
- c) enabling one or more additional parties to securely
associate at least one further control with said
information for use in ensuring at least one
additional consequence of use of said information;
- d) distributing at least a portion of said information to
a further party; and
- e) decrypting at least a portion of said information; and
- f) securely ensuring said consequences.

11. A system for secure digital transaction management wherein digital information is encrypted by a first party at a first location and distributed, characterized by:

a first protected processing environment for enabling the first party to securely associate at least a first control with said information,

a further protected processing environment for enabling the further party to securely associate at least a further control with said information, and

a still further protected processing environment for decrypting at least a portion of said information while controlling at least one consequence of use of the information based at least in part on the first and further controls.

12. A method for secure digital transaction management wherein digital information is encrypted by a first party at a first location and distributed, characterized by the following steps:

enabling the first party to securely associate at least a first control with said information,

enabling a further party to securely associate at least a further control with said information, and

transmitting the first and further controls; and

decrypting at least a portion of said information while controlling at least one consequence at least in part on the transmitted controls.

13. A method for securely automating distributed electronic processes including:

- a) providing secure, interoperable, general purpose rights management processing means to multiple, parties;
- b) establishing secure process management controls for automatically, at least partially remotely, and securely supporting requirements related to electronic events;
- c) securely distributing process management controls to party sites;
- d) securely maintaining at least a portion of said process management controls under the control of party processing means at said party sites;
- e) automatically managing electronic processes at said party sites to enforce interests related to said electronic content.

14. A system for securely automating distributed electronic processes including:

interoperable rights management processing means disposed at multiple parties' sites;

control establishing means for establishing secure process management controls; for remotely, automatically, and securely supporting requirements related to electronic events; and for

securely distributing process management controls to party sites;

security means for securely maintaining at least a portion of said process management controls under the control of processing means at said party sites; and

managing means for automatically managing electronic processes at plural party sites to enforce interests related to said electronic events.

15. A method for automating distributed electronic processes using interoperable processors at multiple sites, characterized by the following steps:

securely distributing, to the processors, process management controls for automatically, and securely supporting requirements related to electronic events;

securely maintaining at least a portion of said process management controls under the control of the processors; and

automatically managing, in a distributed manner with the processors, electronic processes at the multiple sites to enforce interests related to electronic events.

16. A system for automating distributed electronic processes using interoperable processors at multiple sites, characterized by the following:

distributing means connected to the processors for securely distributing, to the processors, process management controls for remotely, automatically, and securely supporting requirements related to electronic events;

process control means for securely maintaining at least a portion of said process management controls under the control of the processors; and

management means for automatically managing, in a distributed manner with the processors, electronic processes at the multiple sites to enforce the interests related to the electronic events.

17. A method of securely enforcing a rights seniority system characterized by the steps of:

allowing a first user to create at least one control over electronic content; and

allowing a second user to contribute at least one further control over electronic content and/or alter the control in place, the second control being subject to the first control.

18. A system for securely enforcing a rights seniority system characterized by:

a first secure environment for allowing a first user to contribute at least one control over electronic content; and

a second secure environment for allowing a second user to contribute at least one further control over electronic content and/or alter the control in place, the second control being subject to the first control.

19. A method of securely enforcing a rights seniority system characterized by the step of allowing a first user to create at least one electronic control that at least in part dictates the rights a second user has to create further electronic controls over the use of and/or access to electronic content.

20. A system for securely enforcing a rights seniority system characterized by at least one means for allowing a first user to create at least one electronic control that at least in part dictates the rights a second user has to create further electronic controls over the use of and/or access to electronic content.

21. A method for employing protected processing environments including:

- a) distributing interoperable protected processing environments to plural parties;
- b) providing a first interoperable protected processing environment for use by a first party to enable said party to (a) encrypt digital information, and (b)

- create control information for managing at least one aspect of use of said digital information;
- c) encrypting said digital information in response to one or more instructions from said first party;
 - d) making said digital information available to a second party;
 - e) through the use of a second interoperable protected processing environment, satisfying requirements enforced by said control information and allowing said second party to use at least a portion of said digital information;
 - f) through the use of said second interoperable protected processing environment securely reporting information reflecting at least one aspect of said second party use of said digital information.

22. A system for employing protected processing environments including:

interoperable protected processing environments distributed to plural parties, including a first interoperable protected processing environment for use by a first party to enable said party to (a) encrypt digital information, and (b) create control information for managing at least one aspect of use of said digital information, and further including a second interoperable protected processing environment;

means for encrypting said digital information in response to one or more instructions from said first party, and for making said digital information available to a second party;

means for a second interoperable protected processing environment to satisfy requirements enforced by said control information and to allow said second party to use at least a portion of said digital information; and to securely report information reflecting at least one aspect of said second party's use of said digital information.

23. A method for employing protected processing environments distributed to plural parties characterized by the following steps:

using a first protected processing environment to encrypt digital information, and control information specifying requirements for managing at least one aspect of use of said digital information;

using a second protected processing environment interoperable with the first protected processing environment to enforce the requirement specified by said control information and conditionally allowing use of at least a portion of said digital information; and

using the second protected processing environment to report information reflecting at least one aspect of use of said digital information.

24. A system for employing protected processing environments distributed to plural parties characterized by:

a first protected processing environment to encrypt digital information, and for handling control information specifying requirements for managing at least one aspect of use of said digital information;

a second protected processing environment interoperable with the first protected processing environment for enforcing at least one requirement specified by said control information and conditionally allowing use of at least a portion of said digital information; and for reporting information reflecting at least one aspect of use of said digital information.

25. A secure network architecture comprising multiple cooperating interconnected nodes having protected processing environments, at least a portion of said nodes being able to intercommunicate, characterized in that VDE-protected information can be moved from a source node to a destination node and processed at least in part by the destination node.

26. In a secure network architecture comprising multiple cooperating interconnected nodes having protected processing environments, the nodes being able to intercommunicate, a method comprising the step of moving VDE-protected

information from a source node to a destination node and processed at least in part by the destination node.

27. A secure local area network topology comprising multiple cooperating interconnected nodes, characterized in that at least some of the nodes comprise network workstations with software defining protected processing environments, and at least one of the nodes comprises a secure database server that provides information in protected form for processing by the network workstation protected processing environments.

28. In a secure local area network topology comprising multiple cooperating interconnected nodes, a method characterized by the steps of:

executing, at least in part with network workstations, software defining protected processing environments, and providing, with a secure database server, information for processing by the network workstation protected processing environments.

29. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that at least one of the plural nodes provides a protected processing environment that performs

a server function for a client comprising at least a portion of the protected processing environment of at least one other node.

30. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by providing, with at least one of the plural nodes, a protected processing environment; and performing, with the protected processing environment, a server function for a client comprising at least a portion of the protected processing environment of at least one other node.

31. A method for securely managing electronic negotiations related to electronic commerce value chain activities including:

- a) employing a protected processing environment by a first party to securely specify rules and/or controls for managing an electronic commerce process;
- b) securely making said specified rules and/or controls available to a second party;
- c) employing a protected processing environment different from said first protected processing environment to further securely specify rules and/or controls for managing at least one commerce process related to the common commercial interests of said first party and said second party;

- d) employing said protected processing environment to securely electronically negotiate at least one aggregate rules and/or controls set representing the electronic interests of both said first party and said second party;
- e) employing a protected processing environment to manage said electronic commerce process consistent with at least a portion of said aggregate rules and/or controls set.

32. A system for securely managing electronic negotiations related to electronic commerce value chain activities including:

a first party's protected processing environment for securely specifying rules and/or controls for managing an electronic commerce process, and for securely making said specified rules and/or controls available to a second party;

a second party's protected processing environment different from said first party's protected processing environment to further securely specify rules and/or controls including means for managing at least one commerce process related to the common commercial interests of said first party and said second party;

at least one of the first party's and the second party's protected processing environment for securely electronically negotiating at least one aggregate rules and/or controls set

representing the electronic interests of both said first party and said second party; and

at least one of the first party's and the second party's protected processing environment including means for managing said electronic commerce process consistent with said at least a portion of said aggregate rules and/or controls set.

33. A method for securely managing electronic negotiations related to electronic commerce value chain activities through use of first and second protected processing environment characterized by:

using the first environment, securely specifying rules and/or controls for managing an electronic commerce process;

using the second environment, further securely specifying rules and/or controls for managing at least one commerce process related to the commercial interests of a first and a second party;

employing at least one of the first and second protected processing environments to securely electronically negotiate at least one aggregate rules and/or controls set representing the electronic interests of the first party and said second party; and

employing at least one of the first and second protected processing environment to manage said electronic commerce process consistent with at least a portion of said aggregate rules and controls set.

34. A system for securely managing electronic negotiations related to electronic commerce value chain activities through use of first and second protected processing environment characterized by:

the first environment including means for securely specifying rules for managing an electronic commerce process;

the second environment including means for further securely specify rules for managing at least one commerce process related to the commercial interests of first and second parties;

at least one of the first and second protected processing environments including means for securely electronically negotiating at least one aggregate rules set at least partially representing the electronic interests of said first party and said second party; and

at least one of the first and second protected processing environment including means for managing said electronic commerce process consistent with said at least a portion of said aggregate rules set.

35. A method for managing a distributed electronic commerce environment including:

- a) establishing a secure, certificate authority for authenticating a user identity for an electronic

commerce participant wherein said identity includes one or more user class parameters;

- b) certifying said user identity through the use of one or more certificates enabled by said certificate authority;
- c) controlling the use of distributed electronic information based at least in part on class parameter information included in such certified identity.

36. A system for securely managing a distributed electronic commerce environment including:

means for establishing a user identity for an electronic commerce participant wherein said identity includes one or more user class parameters;

a certificate authority for authenticating such user identity by certifying said user identity through the use of one or more certificates enabled by said certificate authority; and

means for controlling the use of distributed electronic information based at least in part on class parameter information included in such certified identity.

37. A method for securely managing a distributed electronic commerce environment to allow interaction with an electronic commerce participant having a user identity that is certified by a certificate authority, characterized by:

establishing a user identity;
certifying the user identity and the user class parameter;
and
associating, with the user identity, at least one user class parameter, wherein said certified class parameter, at least in part, is used to control use of distributed electronic information.

38. A system for managing a distributed electronic commerce environment to allow interaction with an electronic commerce participant having a certified user identity, characterized by:

means for associating at least one user class parameter with an established user identity;

means for ascertaining the authenticity of the user identity and/or the user class parameter; and

means for controlling use of distributed electronic information based at least in part on said status.

39. A system as in claim 38 wherein the class parameter represents the user's age, and the controlling means includes means for controlling the use of distributed electronic information based on the user's age.

40. A method of securely establishing user identity through use of certificates, the method characterized by:

presenting an electronic token reflecting at least one user class characteristic;

determining whether an electronic certificate authenticates the user class characteristic reflected by the token; and

using the token as a basis for granting rights.

41. A system for identifying a user through use of certificates, the system characterized by:

means presenting an electronic token reflecting at least one user class characteristic;

means for obtaining an electronic certificate;

means for determining whether the electronic certificate authenticates the user class characteristic reflected by the token;

and

means for using the certified, authenticated token as a basis for granting rights.

42. A system for securely managing a distributed electronic commerce environment including:

means for identifying an electronic commerce participant by specifying at least one user category;

means for authenticating such user identity; and

means for controlling the use of distributed electronic information based at least in part on the user category.

43. A method for securely managing a distributed electronic commerce environment to allow interaction with an electronic commerce participant, characterized by:

establishing a user identity and an associated user class parameter; and

using the class parameter to, at least in part, control use of distributed electronic information.

44. A system for managing a distributed electronic commerce environment to allow interaction with an electronic commerce participant, characterized by:

means for associating at least one user class parameter with a user identity;

means for authenticating the user identity and/or the user class parameter; and

means for controlling use of distributed electronic information based at least in part on said status.

45. A system as in claim 44 wherein the class parameter represents the user's age, and the controlling means includes means for controlling the use of distributed electronic information based on the user's age.

46. A method of securely establishing user identity, the method characterized by:

presenting an electronic token reflecting at least one user class characteristic;

determining the user class characteristic reflected by the token is authentic; and

using the token as at least a partial basis for granting rights.

47. A system for securely establishing user identity characterized by:

means presenting an electronic token reflecting at least one user class characteristic;

authenticating the user class characteristic reflected by the token; and

means for using the authenticated token as a basis for granting rights.

48. A method of authenticating a user identity, the method characterized by:

receiving a certificate request and associated user identity; and

issuing an electronic certificate for use in authenticating at least one user class characteristic associated with the user identity for granting rights based on the user class characteristic.

49. A system for authenticating user identity,
characterized by:

means for receiving a certificate request and associated
user identity; and

means for issuing an electronic certificate for use in
authenticating at least one user class characteristic associated
with the user identity for granting rights based on the user class
characteristic.

50. A method of securely establishing user identity, the
method characterized by:

receiving a certificate request; and

issuing an electronic certificate specifying at least one user
class characteristic.

51. A system for securely establishing user identity
through use of certificates, characterized by:

means for receiving a certificate request and associated
user identity; and

means for issuing an electronic certificate specifying at
least one user class characteristic.

52. A method or system of managing rights characterized in that a cryptographically signed token is used to certify membership in a class, the token is authenticated, and the class membership represented by the token is used as a basis for granting and/or withholding rights and/or permissions.

53. A method or system of managing rights characterized in that a cryptographically signed token is used to certify membership in a class, the status of such token is ascertained, and the class membership represented by the token is used as a basis for allowing a user presenting the token to create electronic rules.

54. A method or system of managing rights characterized in that a cryptographically signed token is used to certify membership in a class, the token is validated, and the class membership represented by the token is used as a basis for allowing a user presenting the token to exercise rights under electronic rules.

55. A method for enabling a distributed electronic commerce electronic agreement system including:

- a) enabling distributed, interoperable secure client protected processing environment nodes;

- b) establishing at least one system wide secure communications key;
- c) employing public key encryption for communications between plural client nodes;
- d) supporting the delivery of electronic control information by individual clients wherein said control information at least in part specifies their respective electronic commerce agreement rights;
- e) supporting at least one protected processing environment for determining the respective and/or collective rights of said clients by establishing one or more electronic agreements based at least in part on said secure delivery of electronic control information;
- f) employing a secure software container data control structure for ensuring persistent maintenance of the electronic rights of the clients;
- g) using secure software containers which provide for data structures that support rules and/or controls corresponding to electronic commerce model agreement enforcement.

56. A distributed electronic agreement system including:
plural distributed, interoperable secure client protected processing environment nodes for supporting delivery of electronic control information by individual clients wherein said

control information at least in part specifies said client's respective electronic commerce model agreement rights, and for employing public key encryption and authentication for communications between said plural client nodes;

means coupled to said nodes for establishing at least one system wide secure communications key; and

at least one protected processing environment for:

- (a) determining the respective and/or collective rights of electronic commerce model clients by establishing one or more electronic agreements based at least in part on said secure delivery of electronic control information;
- (b) employing a secure software container data control structure for ensuring persistent maintenance of the electronic rights of commerce model clients; and
- (c) using secure software containers which provide for data structures that support controls corresponding to electronic commerce model agreement enforcement.

57. A method for enabling a distributed electronic commerce electronic agreement system including distributed, interoperable secure client protected processing environment nodes employing at least one system wide secure communications key, employing public key encryption and authentication for

communications between plural client nodes, and employing an certification authority for establishing client identity, the method characterized by:

supporting the , secure delivery of electronic commerce model agreement rights control information;

determining the respective and/or collective rights of electronic commerce model clients by establishing one or more electronic agreements based at least in part on said secure delivery of the electronic control information;

employing a secure software container data control structure for ensuring remote, persistent maintenance of the electronic rights of commerce model clients; and

using secure software containers which provide for data structures supporting rules and controls corresponding to electronic commerce model agreement enforcement.

58. A distributed electronic commerce electronic agreement system including:

distributed, interoperable secure client protected processing environment nodes employing at least one system wide secure communications key, employing public key encryption and authentication for communications between plural client nodes, employing an certification authority for establishing client identity, and supporting the, secure delivery of electronic commerce model agreement rights control information;

means disposed in at least one node for determining the respective and/or collective rights of electronic commerce model clients by establishing one or more electronic agreements based at least in part on said secure delivery of the electronic control information; and

means disposed in at least one node for employing a secure software container data control structure for ensuring remote, persistent maintenance of the electronic rights of commerce model clients, and for using secure software containers which provide for data structures supporting rules and controls corresponding to electronic commerce model agreement enforcement.

59. A method of securely handling electronic currency characterized by the following steps:

packaging electronic currency within a software container,
and
delivering the software container as payment for goods or services.

60. A system for securely handling electronic currency characterized by:

means for packaging electronic currency within a software container, and

means for delivering the software container as payment for goods or services.

61. A method or system for managing rights within an organization characterized in that electronic containers are distributed within the organization, the electronic containers having controls associated therewith, the controls enforcing, at least in part, an organizational hierarchy relating to the use of the containers and/or the contents thereof.

62. A method of organizational rights management characterized by the steps of:

distributing an electronic container within an organization and

restricting usage, access and/or further distribution of the electronic container or the contents thereof within or outside of the organization based on electronic controls associated with the electronic container.

63. A system for organizational rights management characterized by:

means for distributing an electronic container and

means for restricting usage, access and/or further

distribution of the electronic container or the contents thereof

within or outside of the organization based on electronic controls associated with the electronic container.

64. A method of organizational rights management characterized by the steps of:

distributing electronic containers within an organization,
and

using the electronic containers, at least in part, to
administer content usage by persons within the organization.

65. A system for organizational rights management characterized by:

means for distributing electronic containers within an
organization, and

means for using the electronic containers, at least in part,
to administer content usage by persons within the organization.

66. A method of organizational rights management characterized by the steps of:

distributing electronic containers within an organization,
and

using the electronic containers, at least in part, to
administer use of money within the organization.

67. A system for organizational rights management characterized by electronic containers distributed within an

organization for, at least in part, administering use of money within the organization.

68. A method of organizational rights management characterized by the steps of:

distributing protected processing environments within an organization, and

using the environments to, at least in part, to administer content usage by persons within the organization.

69. A system for organizational rights management characterized by protected processing environments distributed within an organization, for, at least in part, administering content usage within the organization.

70. A method of organizational rights management characterized by the steps of:

distributing protected processing environments within an organization, and

using the processing environments to, at least in part, to administer use of money by persons within the organization.

71. A system for organizational rights management characterized by plural protected processing environments

distributed within an organization for, at least in part,
administering use of money within the organization.

72. A rights management appliance including:
a user input device,
a user display device,
at least one processor, and
at least one element defining a protected processing
environment,

characterized in that the protected processing environment
stores and uses permissions, methods, keys, programs and/or
other information to electronically manage rights.

73. In a rights management appliance including:
a user input device,
a user display device,
at least one processor, and
at least one element defining a protected processing
environment,

a method of operating the appliance characterized by the
step of storing and using permissions, methods, keys, programs
and/or other information to electronically manage rights.

74. A rights management appliance including at least one
processor element at least in part defining a protected processing

environment, characterized in that the protected processing environment stores and uses permissions, methods, keys, programs and/or other information to electronically manage rights.

75. In a rights management appliance including at least one processor element at least in part defining a protected processing environment, a method comprising storing and using permissions, methods, keys, programs and/or other information to electronically manage rights.

76. A method of electronically storing information in a repository and distributing it on request, characterized in that the information is protected by associating electronic controls with the information, the electronic controls serving to enforce rights in the information.

77. A system for electronically storing information in a repository and distributing it on request, characterized by means for protecting information by associating electronic controls with the information, and further including means for using the electronic controls to enforce rights in the information.

78. A self-protecting electronic container comprising:
an electronic container structure for containing digital
information, and
an electronic protection mechanism that protects or
destroys the digital information in the event of tampering.

79. A method for a self-protecting electronic container
comprising an electronic container structure for containing
digital information, the method characterized by detecting an
attempt at tampering and protecting or destroying the digital
information in the said attempt.

80. A method of creating a self-protecting container system
comprising:
providing at least one property,
providing at least one attribute,
providing at least one cryptographic key,
providing at least one organizational structure relating the
key to the property and/or attribute, and
encapsulating the property, the attribute, the
cryptographic key and the organizational structure, either
explicitly or by reference, into an electronic container structure.

81. A self-protecting container system comprising:
at least one property,

at least one attribute,
at least one cryptographic key, and
at least one organizational structure relating the key to the
property and/or attribute.

82. A distributed electronic rights management system
comprising plural nodes having protected processing
environments, characterized in that each node can perform self-
administering processes in response to electronic components.

83. A self-administering electronic component comprising:
at least one method for performing at least a portion of a
transaction,
at least one method for generating audit information, and
at least one method for securely receiving and interpreting
administrative information.

84. A self-administering electronic component performing
the following methods:
at least one method for performing at least a portion of a
transaction,
at least one method for generating audit information, and
at least one method for securely receiving and interpreting
administrative information.

85. A self-describing electronic component defining at least one parameter and/or function, characterized in that the component includes at least one secure, descriptive portion used to create a human readable interface describing the parameter and/or function.

86. A method for processing a self-describing electronic component defining at least one parameter and/or function, characterized by the step of creating, at least in part with the component, a human readable interface describing the parameter and/or function based at least in part on at least one secure, descriptive portion of the component.

87. A method of performing an electronic transaction comprising:

- receiving plural components,
- electronically detecting the occurrence of an event,
- determining, based on the event, a subset of the plural received components to process the event, and
- performing, in response to the event, at least one electronic process based on the component subset.

88. A system for performing an electronic transaction comprising:

- means for receiving plural components,

means for electronically detecting the occurrence of an event,

means for determining, based on the event, a subset of the plural received components to process the event, and

means for performing, in response to the event, at least one electronic process based on the component subset.

89. A distributed transaction processing method characterized by the following steps:

receiving a first electronic component at a first location,
receiving a second electronic component at a second location,

electronically detecting occurrence of an event at the first location,

processing, in response to the event detection, a first portion of an electronic transaction at the first location based at least in part on the first electronic component,

securely transmitting at least one signal from the first location to the second location, and

processing at least a second portion of the electronic transaction at the second location based at least in part on the second electronic component.

90. A method as in claim 89 further characterized by:
sending at least one signal from the second location to the first location, and
performing at least a third portion of the electronic transaction at the first location based at least in part on receipt of the signal from the second location.

91. A distributed transaction processing system characterized by:

means at a first location for receiving a first electronic component, for electronically detecting occurrence of an event, for processing, in response to the event detection, a first portion of an electronic transaction at the first location based at least in part on the first electronic component, and for securely transmitting at least one signal from the first location to a second location; and

means at the second location for receiving a second electronic component, and for processing at least a second portion of the electronic transaction based at least in part on the second electronic component.

92. A system as in claim 91 further characterized by:
means at the second location for sending at least one signal from the second location to the first location, and

means at the first location for performing at least a third portion of the electronic transaction at the first location based at least in part on receipt of the signal from the second location.

93. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that each node can perform electronic processes in response to receipt and assembly of electronic components, and the node authenticates each of the electronic components before assembling them.

94. A distributed electronic rights management method comprising:

performing, with at least one protected processing environment, electronic processes in response to receipt and assembly of electronic components, and

authenticating, within the protected processing environment, each of the electronic components before assembling them.

95. A method as in claim 94 wherein the authenticating step includes the step of obtaining a corresponding certificate from a certifying authority.

96. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that each node can perform electronic processes in response to receipt and assembly of electronic components, and the node authenticates each of the electronic components by obtaining a corresponding certificate from a certifying authority.

97. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a certifying authority that issues certificates allowing each node to authenticate electronic components before assembling them to perform and/or control electronic rights management processes.

98. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, a method characterized by the step of issuing certificates allowing each node to authenticate electronic components before assembling them to perform and/or control electronic rights management processes.

99. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that said nodes enforce usage

and/or access controls and is capable of electronically obtaining compensation from a user and/or other processing of usage information for subsequent transfer to rights holders.

100. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having a protected processing environment, a method characterized by the step of enforcing usage and/or access controls and electronically obtaining compensation from a user and/or other processing of usage information for subsequent transfer to rights holders.

101. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, characterized in that each node enforces usage and/or access controls based on receipt of information from multiple other nodes.

102. A distributed electronic rights management method characterized by the step of enforcing, with a protected processing environment, usage and/or access controls based on receipt of information from multiple other nodes.

103. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that said nodes are capable of at

least temporarily extending electronic credit to an associated user for use in compensating rights holders.

104. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method of operating the environment characterized by the step of at least temporarily extending electronic credit to an associated user for use in compensating rights holders.

105. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, characterized in that said nodes are capable of requesting and obtaining a user-specific electronic credit assurance from a clearinghouse before granting the user rights to access and/or use electronically protected information.

106. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, a method characterized by the step of requesting and obtaining a user-specific electronic credit assurance from a clearinghouse before granting the user rights to access and/or use electronically protected information.

107. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, characterized in that each node is capable of performing and/or requesting an electronic debit or credit transaction as a condition to granting the user rights to access and/or use electronically protected information.

108. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, a method characterized by the step of performing and/or requesting an electronic debit or credit transaction as a condition to granting the user rights to access and/or use electronically protected information.

109. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, characterized in that each node can maintain an audit trail of user activities for reporting to a centralized location, the centralized location analyzing the user activities based on the audit trail.

110. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes each having a protected processing environment, a method characterized by the steps of:

maintaining, a plural locations, audit trails of user activities for reporting to a centralized location, and analyzing, at the centralized location, the user activities based on the audit trail.

111. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that said node can monitor user activities and trigger the occurrence of unrelated events based on the user activities and/or the electronic controls that associate the user activities with the unrelated events.

112. A system as in claim 111 wherein the unrelated event is activation of an application program.

113. A system as in claim 111 wherein the unrelated event is use of a secure container.

114. A system as in claim 111 wherein the unrelated event is use of the protected processing environment.

115. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of monitoring user activities at said nodes, and triggering the occurrence of

unrelated events based on the user activities and electronic controls that associate the user activities with the unrelated events.

116. A method as in claim 115 wherein the unrelated event is at least one of:

- activation of an application program,
- use of a secure container, and
- use of the protected processing environment.

117. A method of compromising a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized by the following steps:

- exposing a certification private key to allow a person to pass a challenge/response protocol,
- defeating at least one of (a) an initialization challenge/response security, and/or (b) exposing external communication keys,
- creating a processing environment based at least in part on the above-mentioned steps, and
- participating in distributed rights management using the processing environment.

118. A processing environment for compromising a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized by the following:

means including an exposed certification private key to pass a challenge/response protocol,

means for defeating at least one of (a) an initialization challenge/response security, and/or (b) exposing external communication keys, and

means for participating in distributed rights management.

119. A method of compromising a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized by the step of compromising the permissions record of an electronic container and using the compromised permissions record to access and/or use electronic information.

120. A system for compromising a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized by means for using a compromised permissions record of an electronic container for accessing and/or using electronic information.

121. A method of tampering with a protected processing environment characterized by the steps of:

discovering at least one system-wide key, and
using the key to obtain access to content and/or
administrative information without authorization.

122. An arrangement including means for using at least one compromised system-wide key to decrypt and compromise content and/or administrative information of a protected processing environment without authorization.

123. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that said nodes can electronically fingerprint content before releasing it in unprotected form.

124. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by performing, in at least one of the nodes, the step of electronically fingerprinting content before releasing it in unprotected form.

125. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that said nodes can embed,

within the electronic content, an electronic fingerprint containing specified information identifying a content rights holder and/or an indication of origin before including the content in an electronic container or allowing access to such content.

126. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of embedding, within electronic content, an electronic fingerprint containing specified information, including information identifying a content rights holder and/or an indication of origin before including the content in an electronic container or allowing access to such content.

127. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that the system includes one or more usage clearinghouses that receive usage information from one or more of the plural nodes.

128. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of receiving, with a usage clearinghouse, usage information from one or more of said plural nodes.

129. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that the system includes one or more financial clearinghouses that receive financial information relating to the use of or access to content from one or more of nodes.

130. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of receiving, with one or more financial clearinghouses, financial information from one or more of the plural nodes.

131. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that the system includes one or more analysis clearinghouses that receive information from one or more of the plural nodes and analyzes the received information.

132. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of receiving, with one or more analysis clearinghouses, information from one

or more of the plural nodes and analyzing the received information.

133. A method of processing information pertaining to the use of or access to electronic content wherein such information is received from one or more nodes having protected processing environments.

134. A method of providing credit for interaction with content to a protected processing environment node.

135. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that the system includes one or more clearinghouses that transmits rights and/or permissioning information to one or more of the plural nodes.

136. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of transmitting rights and/or permissioning information from a clearinghouse to one or more of the plural nodes.

137. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that the system includes one or more clearinghouses that periodically transmit cryptographic material to one or more of said nodes, the cryptographic material renewing and/or replacing expiring cryptographic material.

138. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the step of periodically transmitting cryptographic material from one or more clearinghouses to one more of said nodes, the cryptographic material renewing and/or replacing expiring cryptographic material.

139. A secure electronic container characterized in that the container contains electronic controls for controlling the use of and/or access to electronic content that is external to the container.

140. A method comprising:
accessing electronic controls within a secure electronic container; and

using the controls for at least in part controlling the use of and/or access to electronic content that is external to the container.

141. A secure electronic container characterized in that the container contains electronic controls for controlling, at least in part, the use of and/or access to distributed electronic content.

142. A method comprising:
accessing electronic controls within a secure electronic container; and
using the controls for controlling, at least in part, the use of and/or access to distributed electronic content.

143. A secure electronic container characterized in that the container contains electronic controls that cause electronic content to expire on a time-dependent basis.

144. A method for processing a secure electronic container including the step of causing, at least in part based on electronic controls within the container, electronic content to expire on a time-dependent basis.

145. A method of metering use of and/or access to electronic information characterized by the step of maintaining a bitmap meter data structure including data partitions that subdivide the metering information by time and/or subject matter.

146. A system for metering use of and/or access to electronic information characterized by means for maintaining a bitmap meter data structure including data partitions that subdivide the metering information by time and/or subject matter.

147. A distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, characterized in that the system permits at least some of the nodes to securely describe permitted uses of electronic content and securely enforces said description.

148. In a distributed electronic rights management system comprising plural nodes having protected processing environments, a method characterized by the steps of permitting at least some of the nodes to securely describe permitted uses of electronic content, and securely enforcing said description.

149. A document management system comprising one or more electronic appliances containing one or more secure processing units and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of said secure processing units, said system further including protected usage control information wherein (a) at least a portion of said control information is securely stored within one or more of said secure databases, and (b) at least a portion of said control information governs the production of usage information, at least a portion of which usage information is reported to one or more parties.

150. In a document management system comprising one or more electronic appliances containing one or more secure processing units and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of said secure processing units, a method for processing protected usage control information including the steps of securely storing at least a portion of said control information within one or more of said secure databases, and (b) based at least in part on said control information, governing the production of usage information and the reporting of at least a portion of said usage information to one or more parties.

151. A document management system comprising plural electronic appliances containing protected processing

environments and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of said protected processing environments, said system further including protected usage control information, wherein (a) at least a portion of said control information is securely stored within one or more of said secure databases, and (b) at least a portion of said control information governs the production of usage information and the reporting of at least a portion of said usage information to one or more parties.

152. In a document management system comprising plural electronic appliances containing protected processing environments and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of said protected processing environments, a method of handling usage control information including the steps of (a) securely storing at least a portion of said control information within one or more of said secure databases, and (b) governing, based on at least a portion of said control information, the production of usage information and the reporting of at least a portion of said usage information to one or more parties.

153. An electronic contract system comprising electronic appliances containing one or more secure processing units and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least

one of the secure processing units, said system furthering including means for enabling plural parties to enter into an electronic arrangement, at least one of said databases containing secure control information for managing at least a portion of a plural party electronic arrangement.

154. In an electronic contract system comprising plural electronic appliances containing one or more secure processing units and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of the secure processing units, a method characterized by the steps of enabling plural parties to enter into to an electronic arrangement, and using secure control information contained by at least one of said databases for managing at least a portion of a plural party electronic arrangement.

155. An electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and at least one secure database operatively connected to at least one of said secure processing unit(s), said arrangement including means to monitor usage of at least one aspect of appliance usage and control said usage based at least in part upon protected appliance usage control information.

156. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and at least one secure database operatively connected to at least one of said secure processing unit(s), a method characterized by the steps of monitoring usage of at least one aspect of appliance usage and controlling said usage based at least in part upon protected appliance usage control information.

157. An electronic appliance arrangement containing a protected processing environment and at least one secure database operatively connected to said protected processing environment, said arrangement including means to monitor usage of at least one aspect of an amount of appliance usage and control said usage based at least in part upon protected appliance usage control information processed at least in part through use of said protected processing environment.

158. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing a protected processing environment and at least one secure database operatively connected to said protected processing environment, a method characterized by the steps of monitoring usage of at least one aspect of appliance usage and controlling said usage based at least in part upon protected appliance usage control information processed at least in part through use of said protected processing environment.

159. An electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more CPUs wherein at least one of the CPUs incorporates an integrated secure processing unit, said arrangement storing protected appliance usage control information designed to be securely processed by said integrated secure processing unit.

160. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more CPUs wherein at least one of the CPUs incorporates an integrated secure processing unit, a method including the step of storing and securely processing protected modular component appliance usage control information with said integrated secure processing unit.

161. An electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one first secure processing unit and one or more video controllers where at least one of the video controllers incorporates at least one second secure processing unit, said arrangement storing protected video function control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

162. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one first secure processing unit and one or more video controllers where at least one of the video controllers incorporates at least one second secure processing unit, the

method characterized by the step of storing protected video function control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

163. An electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more video controllers where at least one of the video controllers incorporates at least one secure processing unit, said arrangement storing protected video function control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s), wherein at least a portion of said video function control information is stored within a secure database operatively connected to at least one of said at least one secure processing units.

164. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more video controllers where at least one of the video controllers incorporates at least one secure processing unit, a method including the steps of storing protected video function control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s), within a database operatively connected to at least one of said at least one secure processing units.

165. An electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more video controllers and at least one secure processing unit,

said arrangement storing component, modular protected video function control information designed to be securely processed by said secure processing unit(s), wherein at least a portion of said video function control information is stored within a secure database operatively connected to at least one of said at least one secure processing unit(s).

166. An electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more video controllers and at least one secure processing unit, a method including the step of storing component, modular protected video function control information designed to be securely processed by said secure processing unit(s), within a secure database operatively connected to at least one of said at least one secure processing unit(s).

167. An electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and one or more network communications means where at least one of the network communications means incorporates at least one further secure processing unit, said arrangement storing protected networking control information designed to be processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

168. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and one or more network

communications means, a method characterized by the steps of incorporating, within at least one of the network communications means, at least one further secure processing unit, storing networking control information at least in part within said incorporated secure processing unit(s), and securely processing said protected networking control information with said secure processing unit(s).

169. An electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more modems where at least one of the modems incorporates at least one secure processing unit, said arrangement storing modular, component protected modem control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

170. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more modems where at least one of the modems incorporates at least one secure processing unit, a method characterized by the step of storing and securely processing modular, component protected modem control information with said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

171. An electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and one or more modems where at least one of the modems includes at least one further secure

processing unit, said arrangement storing protected modem control information designed to be securely processed by said included secure processing unit(s).

172. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and one or more modems where at least one of the modems includes at least one further secure processing unit, a method including the step of storing and securely processing protected modem control information within said included secure processing unit(s).

173. An electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and one or more CD-ROM devices where at least one of the CD-ROM devices incorporates at least one further secure processing unit, said arrangement storing protected CD-ROM control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

174. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing at least one secure processing unit and one or more CD-ROM devices where at least one of the CD-ROM devices incorporates at least one further secure processing unit, a method characterized by the step of storing and securely processing protected CD-ROM

control information within said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

175. An electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more network communications means where at least one of the network communications means incorporates at least one secure processing unit, said arrangement storing modular, component, protected networking control information designed to be securely processed by said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

176. In an electronic appliance arrangement containing one or more network communications means where at least one of the network communications means incorporates at least one secure processing unit, a method characterized by the step of storing and securely processing protected networking control information with said incorporated secure processing unit(s).

177. A set-top controller arrangement containing a protected processing environment and a database operatively connected to said protected processing environment, said arrangement further containing control information for controlling usage of said controller based upon processing of at least a portion of said control information within said protected processing environment, wherein at least a portion of said control information is stored within said database.

178. In a set-top controller arrangement containing a protected processing environment and a database operatively connected to said protected processing environment, a method characterized by the step of: (a) using control information within the set-top controller arrangement for controlling usage of said controller based upon processing of at least a portion of said control information within said protected processing environment, and storing at least a portion of said control information within said database.

179. An electronic game arrangement containing a protected processing environment for controlling the use of electronic games, said arrangement including game usage control information, database means operatively connected to said protected processing environment for, at least in part, storing usage control information for regulating at least some aspect of use of at least a portion of at least one of said games, and traveling objects containing protected electronic game content.

180. In an electronic game arrangement containing a protected processing environment for controlling the use of electronic games, a method including the steps of:

(a) including game usage control information within a database means operatively connected to said protected processing environment; and

(b) regulating, at least in part with the stored usage control information, at least some aspect of use of at least a portion of at least one of said games.

181. A method as in claim 178 further including the step of regulating the use of traveling objects containing protected electronic game content.

182. An electronic game arrangement containing interoperable protected processing environments for controlling the use of interactive games, said arrangement including protected game usage control information, and database means operatively connected to said protected processing environments for, at least in part, storing game usage control information.

183. In an electronic game arrangement containing protected processing environments, a method comprising:

(a) storing, within a secure database means operatively connected to said protected processing environments protected game usage control information; and

(b) controlling the use of interactive games based at least in part on the storing game usage control information.

184. An electronic game arrangement containing interoperable protected processing environments for controlling

the use of games, said arrangement including component, modular, protected game usage control information, wherein at least a portion of said protected control information was provided independently by plural parties securing their respective rights in at least one electronic value chain.

185. In an electronic game arrangement containing interoperable protected processing environments for controlling the use of games, a method including the steps of:

(a) providing at least a portion of component, modular, protected game usage control information independently by plural parties; and

(b) using the control information at least in part to securing respective rights of said plural parties in at least one electronic value chain.

186. An electronic multimedia arrangement containing protected processing environments for controlling the use of multimedia, said arrangement including component, modular multimedia usage control information and database means operatively connected to said protected processing environments for, at least in part, storing multimedia usage control information.

187. In an electronic multimedia arrangement containing protected processing environments for controlling the use of multimedia, a method including the steps of storing multimedia usage control information within a database means operatively connected to said protected processing environments, and using the stored control information to control multimedia.

188. An electronic multimedia arrangement containing a protected processing environment for controlling the use of multimedia, said arrangement including multimedia usage control information, database means operatively connected to said protected processing environment for, at least in part, storing multimedia usage control information, and protected traveling objects containing distributed multimedia electronic content.

189. In an electronic multimedia arrangement containing a protected processing environment, a method characterized by the steps of storing multimedia usage control information within a database means operatively connected to said protected processing environment, and controlling, based at least in part on the stored information, protected traveling objects containing distributed multimedia electronic content.

190. An electronic multimedia arrangement containing interoperable protected processing environments for controlling the use of multimedia, said arrangement including component, modular, protected multimedia usage control information, wherein at least a portion of said protected control information was provided independently by plural parties securing their respective rights in at least one electronic value chain.

191. A system as in claim 188 further including a secure processing unit.

192. In an electronic multimedia arrangement containing protected processing environments, a method comprising providing at least a portion of component, modular, protected multimedia usage control information independently by plural parties securing their respective rights in at least one electronic value chain, and using the usage control information to control the use of multimedia.

193. A method as in claim 190 wherein the using step is performed at least in part within a secure processing unit.

194. An integrated circuit supporting multiple encryption algorithms comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, at least one circuit for encrypting and/or

decrypting information and one or more software programs for use with at least one of the microprocessors to perform encryption and/or decryption functions.

195. In a secure integrated circuit supporting multiple encryption algorithms comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, and providing a protected processing environment, a method characterized by executing at least a portion of one or more software programs with the microprocessor to perform encryption and/or decryption functions within the integrated circuit.

196. An integrated circuit comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, at least one real time clock, at least one random number generator, at least one circuit for encrypting and/or decrypting information and independently delivered and/or independently deliverable certified software.

197. An integrated circuit comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, a tamper resistant barrier and at least a portion of a Rights Operating System.

198. An integrated circuit comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, at least one real

time clock, a tamper resistant barrier and means for recording interruption of power to at least one of the real time clocks.

199. A method of distributing information characterized by the steps of compressing information, encrypting the compressed information at the first location, distributing the encrypted information to one or more second locations, using a tamper resistant integrated circuit to first decrypt and then decompress the information.

200. A system for distributing information characterized by:

- means for compressing information,
- means for encrypting the compressed information at the first location,
- means for distributing the encrypted information to one or more second locations, and
- means for using a tamper resistant integrated circuit to first decrypt and then decompress the information.

201. A method of securely managing distributed events characterized by the steps of providing secure event processing environments to one or more users, enabling a first user to specify control information for event management through the use of a first secure event processing environment, and managing

the processing of such an event through the use of a second secure event processing environment.

202. A system for securely managing distributed events characterized by:

a first secure event processing environment for enabling a first user to specify control information for event management, and

a second secure event processing environment interoperable with the first event processing environment for managing the processing of such an event.

203. A method for enabling electronic commerce chain of handling and control characterized by the step of a first and a second party independently specifying protected, modular component control information describing requirements related to the operation of an electronic commerce value chain.

204. A system for enabling electronic commerce chain of handling and control characterized by means for permitting a first and a second party to independently specify protected, modular component control information describing requirements related to the operation of an electronic commerce value chain of handling and control, and means for securely enforcing the requirements described by the control information.

205. A method for enabling electronic commerce characterized by the step of a first and a second party independently stipulating control information managing the use of digital information, wherein said first and said second party independently maintain persistent rights enforced by said control information as said digital information moves through a chain of handling and control.

206. A system for enabling electronic commerce including:
means for allowing a first party to stipulate control information managing the use of digital information,
means for allowing a second party to stipulate control information managing the use of the digital information, and
chain of handling and control means for maintaining persistent rights enforced by said control information as said digital information moves from one location and/or process to another.

207. A method for secure maintenance of electronic rights comprising a first step of plural parties in a value chain independently and securely stipulating control information regarding their electronic rights, wherein said control information is used to enforce conditions related to the use of electronic information distributed in software containers.

208. A system for secure maintenance of electronic rights comprising:

means permitting plural parties in a value chain to independently and securely stipulates control information regarding their electronic rights, and

means for using said control information to enforce conditions related to the use of electronic information distributed in software containers.

209. A method for securely controlling the use of protected electronic content including the step of supporting modular separate control information arrangements for managing at least one event related to use of said content such that a user may select between separate control information arrangements for managing such at least one event.

210. A system for securely controlling the use of protected electronic content including modular separate control information arrangements for managing at least one event related to use of said content such that a user may select between separate control information arrangements for managing such at least one event.

211. A method employing separate, modular control structures for managing the use of encrypted digital information

characterized by the step of enabling commercial value chain participants to support plural relationships between two or more of: (1) content event triggering, (2) auditing, and (3) budgeting, control variables.

212. A system for employing separate, modular control structures for managing the use of encrypted digital information characterized by means for enabling commercial value chain participants to support plural relationships between two or more of: (1) content event triggering, (2) auditing, and (3) budgeting, control variables.

213. A method of chain of handling and control enabling a party not directly participating in an electronic value chain to contribute secure control information to enforce at least one control requirement, said method characterized by a first step of a first value chain participant stipulating control information associated with digital information and a second step wherein said not directly participating party independently and securely contributes secure control information for inclusion in an aggregate control information set including said associated control information, said aggregate control information at least in part managing conditions related to the use of at least a portion of said digital information by a second value chain participant.

214. A chain of handling and control system for enabling a party not directly participating in an electronic value chain to contribute secure control information to enforce at least one control requirement, said system characterized by:

means for allowing a first value chain participant to stipulate control information associated with digital information,

means for allowing the not directly participating party to independently and securely contribute secure control information for inclusion in an aggregate control information set including said associated control information,

and means responsive to said aggregate control information for at least in part managing conditions related to the use of at least a portion of said digital information by a second value chain participant.

215. A method of electronic commerce control information management for delegating the administration of certain rights held by a value chain party to a second value chain party characterized by the step of said first party stipulating secure control information describing at least a portion of their rights related to one or more chain of handling and control electronic events wherein said first party provides further control information authorizing said second party to administer some or all of said rights as an agent for said first party.

216. A system for electronic commerce control information management for delegating the administration of certain rights held by a value chain party to a second value chain party characterized by:

means for allowing said first party to stipulate secure control information describing at least a portion of their rights related to one or more chain of handling and control electronic events; and

means for allowing said first party to provide further control information authorizing said second party to administer some or all of said rights as an agent for said first party.

217. A method of governing taxation of commercial events resulting from electronic chain of handling and control characterized by a first step of distributing secure digital information to a user and specifying secure control information controlling at least one condition for use of said digital information and a second step of a government agency securely, independently contributing secure control information for automatically governing tax payments for said commercial events.

218. A system for governing taxation of commercial events resulting from electronic chain of handling and control characterized by:

means for distributing secure digital information to a user;
means for specifying secure control information controlling
at least one condition for use of said digital information; and
means for allowing a government agency to securely,
independently contribute secure control information for
automatically governing tax payments for said commercial
events.

219. A method of governing privacy rights related to
electronic events characterized by a first step of a first party
protecting digital information containing information descriptive
of preventing a second party from at least one unauthorized use
and a second step of specifying certain control information
related to use of at least a portion of said protected digital
information, wherein said control information enforces at least
one right of said second party related to privacy and/or permitted
use(s) of personal and/or proprietary information included in said
protected digital information.

220. A system for governing privacy rights related to
electronic events characterized by:

means for permitting a first party to protect digital
information containing information descriptive of preventing a
second party from at least one unauthorized use;

means for specifying certain control information related to use of at least a portion of said protected digital information; and

means for using the control information to enforce at least one right of said second party related to privacy and/or permitted use(s) of personal and/or proprietary information included in said protected digital information.

221. A method of governing privacy rights related to electronic events characterized by a first step of a first party protecting digital information from at least one unauthorized use and stipulating certain control information for establishing conditions for use of said protected information and a second step of a user of said digital information stipulating further control information regulating the reporting of information regarding said user's use of at least a portion of said digital information.

222. A system for governing privacy rights related to electronic events characterized by:

means for allowing a first party to protect digital information from at least one unauthorized use and for stipulating certain control information for establishing conditions for use of said protected information; and

means for allowing a user of said digital information to stipulate further control information regulating the reporting of

information regarding said user's use of at least a portion of said digital information.

223. A secure method for regulating electronic conduct and commerce characterized by a step of distributing interoperable protected processing environments and circulating amongst plural recipients of said protected processing environments software containers containing digital content and related content control information prepared for use by at least a portion of said protected processing environments, wherein said method includes the further step of regulating the use at least some of said digital content based, at least in part, on the secure processing of at least a portion of said control information through the use of at least one protected processing environment.

224. A secure system for regulating electronic conduct and commerce characterized by:

distributed interoperable protected processing environments,

means for circulating, amongst said protected processing environments, software containers containing digital content and related content control information prepared for use by at least a portion of said protected processing environments, and

means within at least some of the protected processing environments for regulating the use at least some of said digital

content based, at least in part, on the secure processing of at least a portion of said control information.

225. A method of electronic commerce networking for enabling a secure electronic retail environment characterized by the step of supplying user certified control information, smart cards, secure processing units, and retailing terminal arrangements networked together using VDE communication techniques and secure software containers.

226. An electronic commerce networking system for enabling a secure electronic retail environment characterized by:

- means for networking together smart cards, secure processing units, and retailing terminal arrangements; and
- means for making the smart cards, secure processing units, and retailing terminal arrangements interoperable with one another and with VDE communication techniques and secure software containers.

227. A method of enabling electronic commerce appliances for securely administering user rights in commerce activities characterized by the step of providing to users at least a portion of a VDE node contained within a physical device, said device being configured to be compatible with mating connectors in host

systems for supporting secure, interoperable transaction activity between plural parties.

228. A system for securely administering user rights in commerce activities comprising a physical device including at least a portion of a portable VDE node, said device being configured to be compatible with mating connectors in host systems for supporting secure, interoperable transaction activity between plural parties.

229. A method for enabling a programmable, electronic commerce environment characterized by the step of providing to multiple parties secure commerce nodes that securely process separate, modular component billing management methods, budgeting management methods, metering management methods, and related auditing management methods and further characterized by the step of supporting triggering of metering, auditing, billing, and budgeting methods in response to electronic commerce event activities.

230. A programmable, electronic commerce environment characterized by secure commerce nodes each including:

means for securely processing separate, modular component billing management methods, budgeting management

methods, metering management methods, and related auditing management methods, and

means for supporting triggering of metering, auditing, billing, and budgeting methods in response to electronic commerce event activities.

231. An electronic commerce system including modular, standardized control components comprising electronic commerce event control instructions stipulated by commerce participants, and plural electronic appliances containing one or more secure processing units which process at least a portion of such commerce event control instructions, said system further containing one or more databases, operatively connected to at least one of the secure processing units, for at least in part securely storing at least a portion of such control instructions for use by said at least one secure processing unit.

232. In an electronic commerce system including modular, standardized control components comprising electronic commerce event control instructions stipulated by commerce participants, and plural electronic appliances containing one or more secure processing units which process at least a portion of such commerce event control instructions, a method characterized by the step of providing one or more secure databases, operatively connected to at least one of the secure processing units, and at

least in part securely storing, within the secure databases, at least a portion of such control instructions for use by said at least one secure processing unit.

233. A content distribution system comprising plural electronic appliances containing one or more interoperable secure processing units operatively connected to one or more databases for use with at least one of said secure processing units, said one or more databases containing (a) one or more decryption keys for use in decrypting distributed, encrypted digital information, and (b) encrypted audit information, said audit information reflecting at least one aspect of use of said distributed digital information

234. A content distribution method comprising:

- distributing plural electronic appliances containing one or more interoperable secure processing units
- operatively connecting the appliances to one or more databases,
- storing within said one or more databases one or more decryption keys,
- using the decryption keys for decrypting distributed, encrypted digital information, and
- storing within the one or more databases encrypted audit information, said audit information reflecting at least one aspect of use of said distributed digital information.

235. An electronic currency system comprising plural, electronic appliances containing (a) protected processing environments, (b) encrypted electronic currency and related secure control information configured so as to be useable by at least one of said protected processing environments, and (c) usage reporting means for securely communicating electronic currency usage related information from a first interoperable protected processing environment to a second interoperable protected processing environment.

236. An electronic currency method comprising:
distributing plural, electronic appliances containing (a) protected processing environments, (b) encrypted electronic currency and related secure control information configured so as to be useable by at least one of said protected processing environments, and

securely communicating electronic currency usage related information from a first interoperable protected processing environment to a second interoperable protected processing environment.

237. A method for electronic financial activities characterized by the steps of:

communicating digital containers containing financial information from a first interoperable secure node to a second interoperable secure node, communicating modular, standard control information to said second secure node to, at least in part, set the conditions for use of at least a portion of said financial information, reporting information related to said use to said first interoperable secure node.

238. A system for electronic financial activities characterized by:

means for communicating digital containers containing financial information from a first interoperable secure node to a second interoperable secure node,

means for communicating modular, standard control information to said second secure node,

means at the second node for, at least in part, setting the conditions for use of at least a portion of said financial information, and

means for reporting information related to said use from the second secure node to said first interoperable secure node.

239. A method for electronic currency management including:

communicating encrypted electronic currency from a first, interoperable secure user node to a second interoperable user node using at least one secure container, and

providing secure control information for use with said at least one secure container, said secure control information, at least in part, maintaining conditionally anonymous currency usage information.

240. A system for electronic currency management including:

means for communicating encrypted electronic currency from a first, interoperable secure user node to a second interoperable user node using at least one secure container, and

means for providing secure control information for use with said at least one secure container, said secure control information, at least in part, maintaining conditionally anonymous currency usage information.

241. A method for electronic financial activities management characterized by the steps of:

securely communicating from a first secure node to a second secure node financial information standardized control information for controlling the use of financial information used in a financial value chain,

securely communicating from said first secure node to a third secure node said financial information standardized control information for controlling the use of financial information used in a financial value chain,

securely communicating encrypted financial information from said second secure node to said third secure node, including communicating secure control information, processing said financial information at said third node at least in part through the use of secure control information supplied by said first and said second secure nodes, wherein said standardized control information is at least in part stored in a secure database contained within said third secure node.

242. A system for electronic financial activities management characterized by the steps of:

means coupled to a first and a second secure node for securely communicating from said first secure node to said second secure node financial information standardized control information for controlling the use of financial information used in a financial value chain,

means coupled between the first secure node and a third secure node for securely communicating from said first secure node to said third secure node said financial information standardized control information for controlling the use of financial information used in a financial value chain,

means coupled between the second and third nodes for securely communicating encrypted financial information from said second secure node to said third secure node, including communicating secure control information, and

means at the third node for processing said financial information at said third node at least in part through the use of secure control information supplied by said first and said second secure nodes, and

a secure database at the third node for at least in part storing said standardized control information.

243. A method of information management characterized by the steps of creating at least one smart object at a first location, protecting at least a portion of said smart object including protecting at least one rule and/or control assigned to said smart object, distributing said at least one smart object to at least one second location, securely processing at least a portion of the contents of said at least one smart object at said at least one second location in accordance with at least a portion of at least one said rule and/or control assigned to said smart object.

244. An information management system characterized by:

means for creating at least one smart object at a first location,

means for protecting at least a portion of said smart object including means for protecting at least one rule and/or control assigned to said smart object,

means for distributing said at least one smart object to at least one second location, and

means for securely processing at least a portion of the contents of said at least one smart object at said at least one second location in accordance with at least a portion of at least one said rule and/or control assigned to said smart object.

245. An object processing system comprising at least one secure object containing at least in part protected executable content and at least one at least in part protected rule and/or control associated with operations related to the execution of such content, and at least one secure execution environment for processing the executable content in accordance with at least a portion of at least one of said at least one associated rule and/or control.

246. An object processing method comprising:

providing at least one secure object containing at least in part protected executable content and at least one at least in part protected rule and/or control associated with operations related to the execution of such content,

processing, within at least one secure execution environment, the executable content in accordance with at least a portion of at least one of said at least one associated rule and/or control.

247. A rights distributed database environment including (a) means allowing one or more central authorities to establish control information for use of encrypted digital information, (b) interoperable database management systems at plural user sites for securely storing control information and audit information, (c) secure communication means for securely communicating control information and audit information between user sites, and (d) centralized database means for compiling and analyzing usage information from plural user sites.

248. Within a rights distributed database environment, a method characterized by the following steps:

establishing control information for use of encrypted digital information,

securely storing, within interoperable database management systems at plural user sites, control information and audit information,

securely communicating control information and audit information between user sites, and

compiling and analyzing usage information from plural user sites.

249. A method of distributed database searching characterized by the steps of creating at least one secure object containing search criteria, transmitting at least one such secure object to one or more second locations to perform database searches in accordance with at least one rule and/or control, processing at least one database search based at least in part on the search criteria within a secure object in accordance with at least a portion of at least one of the said at least one associated rule and/or control, storing database search results in the same and/or one or more new secure objects, and transmitting the secure object containing search results to the first location.

250. A method as in claim 247 further characterized by the additional step of associating at least one additional rule and/or control with the search results for establishing at least one condition related to the use of at least one portion of said search results.

251. A system for distributed database searching characterized by:

means for creating at least one secure object containing search criteria,

means for transmitting at least one such secure object to one or more second locations to perform database searches in accordance with at least one rule and/or control,

means for processing at least one database search based at least in part on the search criteria within a secure object in accordance with at least a portion of at least one of the said at least one associated rule and/or control,

means for storing database search results in the same and/or one or more new secure objects, and

means for transmitting the secure object containing search results to the first location.

252. A system as in claim 249 further characterized by means for associating at least one additional rule and/or control with the search results for establishing at least one condition related to the use of at least one portion of said search results.

253. A rights management system comprising protected information, at least two protected processing arrangements, and a rights management language that allows the expression of permitted operations and the consequences of performing such operations on at least a portion of the information processed at least in part by at least one of the protected processing arrangements.

254. A rights management method comprising:
providing protected information for processing by at least two protected processing arrangements, and
expressing, in a rights management language, permitted operations and the consequences of performing such operations on at least a portion of the information processed at least in part by at least one of the protected processing arrangements.

255. A method of protecting digital information characterized by the steps of encrypting at least a portion of the information, using a rights management language to describe the conditions related to use of the information, distributing at least a portion of such information and at least a portion of such rights language expressed conditions to one or more recipients, using an electronic appliance arrangement including at least one protected processing arrangement to securely govern at least a portion of the use of such information.

256. A system for protecting digital information characterized by:
means for encrypting at least a portion of the information,
means for using a rights management language to describe the conditions related to use of the information,

means for distributing at least a portion of such information and at least a portion of such rights language expressed conditions to one or more recipients, and

an electronic appliance arrangement including at least one protected processing arrangement for securely governing at least a portion of the use of such information.

257. A distributed digital information management system comprising software components, a rights management language for expressing processing relationships between two or more of the software components, protected processing means for at least a portion of the software components and at least a portion of the rights management expressions, means for protecting content, means for creating software objects that relate protected content to rights management expressions, and means for delivering protected content, rights management expressions, and such software objects from a providing location to a user's location.

258. A distributed digital information management method comprising:

expressing, in a rights management language, processing relationships between two or more of the software components,

processing, within at least one protected environment, at least a portion of the software components and at least a portion of the rights management expressions,

protecting content,
creating software objects that relate protected content to
rights management expressions, and
delivering protected content, rights management
expressions, and such software objects from a providing location
to a user's location.

259. An authentication system comprising at least two
electronic appliances, at least two digital certificates reflecting
identity information encrypted using different certifying private
keys where such certificates are stored in a first electronic
appliance, communications means for transmitting and receiving
signals between electronic appliances, means for determining
compromised and/or expired certifying private keys operatively
connected to a second electronic appliance, means for the second
electronic appliance to request transmission of one of the digital
certificates from the first electronic appliance based at least in
part on such determination, and means operatively connected to
such second electronic appliance for decrypting such certificate
and determining such certificate's validity and/or the validity of
identity information.

260. In a system comprising at least two electronic
appliances, an authenticating method comprising:

issuing at least two digital certificates reflecting identification information, including the step of encrypting the two certificates using different certifying private keys, storing the certificates in a first electronic appliance, transmitting and receiving signals between electronic appliances, determining compromised and/or expired certifying private keys operatively connected to a second electronic appliance, requesting, with the second electronic appliance, transmission of one of the digital certificates from the first electronic appliance based at least in part on such determination, decrypting such certificate with the second electronic appliance, and determining such certificate's validity and/or the validity of identity information.

261. An authentication system comprising at least two electronic appliances, at least two digital certificates reflecting identify information encrypted using different certifying private keys where such certificates are stored in a first electronic appliance, communications means for transmitting and receiving signals between electronic appliances, means for a second electronic appliance to request transmission of one of the digital certificates from the first electronic appliance wherein the selection of which certificate is requested is based at least in part

on a random or pseudo-random number, means operatively connected to such second electronic appliance for decrypting such certificate and determining such certificate's validity and/or the validity of identity information.

262. In a system comprising at least two electronic appliances, an authenticating method comprising:

issuing at least two digital certificates reflecting identify information, including the step of encrypting the two digital certificates using different certifying private keys,

storing such certificates in a first electronic appliance, transmitting and receiving signals between electronic appliances,

requesting, with a second electronic appliance, transmission of one of the digital certificates from the first electronic appliance, including the step of selecting a certificate based at least in part on a random or pseudo-random number,

decrypting such certificate with the second electronic appliance; and

determining such certificate's validity and/or the validity of identity information.

263. A method of secure electronic mail characterized by the steps of creating at least one electronic message using an interoperable protected processing environment, encrypting at

least a portion of said at least one message, securely associating one or more sets of control information with one or more messages to set at least one condition for the use of said at least one message, communicating the protected electronic messages to one or more recipients having protected processing environments, securely communicating at least one set of the same or differing control information to each recipient, enabling recipients of both control information and protected messages to use message information at least in part in accordance with the conditions specified by the control information.

264. A system for secure electronic mail including multiple protected processing environments, the system characterized by:

a first protected processing environment for creating at least one electronic message, the first environment including means for encrypting at least a portion of said at least one message, means for securely associating one or more sets of control information with one or more messages to set at least one condition for the use of said at least one message, and means for communicating the protected electronic messages to one or more recipients having interoperable protected processing environments,

means for securely communicating at least one set of the same or differing control information to each recipient, and

means for enabling recipients of both control information and protected messages to use message information at least in part in accordance with the conditions specified by the control information.

265. A method of information management characterized by the steps of protecting content from unauthorized use, securely associating enabling control information with at least a portion of such protected content wherein such enabling control information incorporates information describing how the enabling control information may be redistributed, delivering at least a portion of the protected content to a first user, delivering such enabling control information to such first user, receiving a request to redistribute such enabling control information from such first user, using the description of how enabling control information may be redistributed to create new enabling control information where such new enabling control information may be the same or different than the enabling control information received by such first user, delivering the new enabling control information and/or protected information to a second user.

266. An information management system characterized by:

means for protecting content from unauthorized use,

means for securely associating enabling control information with at least a portion of such protected content, including means for incorporating enabling control information describing how the enabling control information may be redistributed,

means for delivering at least a portion of the protected content to a first user,

means for delivering such enabling control information to such first user,

means for receiving a request to redistribute such enabling control information from such first user,

means for using the description of how enabling control information may be redistributed to create new enabling control information where such new enabling control information may be the same or different than the enabling control information received by such first user, and

means for delivering the new enabling control information and/or protected information to a second user.

267. A method of controlling redistribution of distributed digital information including the steps of encrypting digital information, distributing said encrypted digital information from a first party to a second party, establishing control information regarding the redistribution of at least a portion of said encrypted digital information from said second party to at least one third

party, regulating the redistribution of said at least a portion of said encrypted digital information through the use of a protected processing environment processing said control information.

268. A system for controlling redistribution of distributed digital information including:

means for encrypting digital information,

means for distributing said encrypted digital information from a first party to at least one second party,

means for establishing control information regarding the redistribution of at least a portion of said encrypted digital information from said second party to at least one third party, and

a protected processing environment for processing said control information and for regulating the redistribution of said at least a portion of said encrypted digital information.

269. A method of controlling a robot characterized by the steps of creating instructions for one or more robots, creating a secure container incorporating such instructions, associating control information with such secure container, incorporating at least one secure processing unit into such one or more robots, and performing at least a portion of such instructions in accordance with at least a portion of such control information.

270. A method as in claim 267 further characterized in that such control information includes information describing the conditions under which such instructions may be used and the nature of audit reports required when such instructions are performed.

271. A robot control system characterized by:
means for creating instructions for one or more robots,
means for creating a secure container incorporating such instructions,
means for associating control information with such secure container,
means for incorporating at least one secure processing unit into such one or more robots, and
means for performing at least a portion of such instructions in accordance with at least a portion of such control information.

272. A system as in claim 269 further characterized by means for creating such control information, including means for describing the conditions under which such instructions may be used and the nature of audit reports required when such instructions are performed.

273. A method of detecting fraud in electronic commerce characterized by the steps of creating at least one secure

container, associating control information with such one or more containers including control information requiring that audit information be collected and transmitted to an auditing party, delivering such one or more containers and such control information to at least one user, recording information identifying each container and each such user, receiving audit information, creating a profile of usage based at least in part on such received audit information and/or such control information, detecting cases where certain audit information differs at least in part from such profile of usage.

274. A system for detecting fraud in electronic commerce characterized by

means for creating at least one secure container,

means for associating control information with such one or more containers including control information requiring that audit information be collected and transmitted to an auditing party,

means for delivering such one or more containers and such control information to at least one user,

means for recording information identifying each container and each such user,

means for receiving audit information,

means for creating a profile of usage based at least in part on such received audit information and/or such control information, and

means for detecting cases where certain audit information differs at least in part from such profile of usage.

275. A method of detecting fraud in electronic commerce characterized by the steps of distributing at least in part protected digital information to customers, distributing one or more rights to use at least a portion of such digital information across an electronic network, allowing a customer to use at least a part of said at least in part protected digital information through the use of a protected processing environment and at least one of said one or more distributed rights, detecting unusual usage activity related to use of said digital information.

276. A system for detecting fraud in electronic commerce characterized by

means for distributing at least in part protected digital information to customers,

means for distributing one or more rights to use at least a portion of such digital information across an electronic network,

a protected processing environment for allowing a customer to use at least a part of said at least in part protected

digital information through at least one of said one or more distributed rights, and

means for detecting unusual usage activity related to use of said digital information.

277. A programmable component arrangement comprising a tamper resistant processing environment including a microprocessor, memory, a task manager, memory manager and external interface controller, means for loading arbitrary components at least in part into the memory, means for initiating one or more tasks associated with processing such components, means for certifying the validity, integrity and/or trustedness of such components, means for creating arbitrary components, means for associating arbitrary events with such created components, means for certifying the validity, integrity and/or trustedness of such created components, and means for securely delivering such created components.

278. In a programmable component arrangement comprising a tamper resistant processing environment including a microprocessor, memory, a task manager, memory manager and an external interface controller, a processing method characterized by the following steps:

creating arbitrary components,

associating arbitrary events with such created components,

loading the arbitrary components at least in part into the memory,
initiating one or more tasks associated with processing such loaded components,
certifying the validity, integrity and/or trustedness of such created components, and
securely delivering such created components.

279. A distributed, protected, programmable component arrangement comprising at least two tamper resistant processing environments including a microprocessor, memory, a task manager, memory manager and external interface controller, means for loading arbitrary components at least in part into the memory, means for initiating one or more tasks associated with processing such components, and means for certifying the validity, integrity and/or trustedness of such components, said arrangement further comprising means for creating arbitrary components, means for associating arbitrary events with such created components, means for certifying the validity, integrity and/or trustedness of such created components, means for securely delivering such created components between at least two of said at least two tamper resistant processing environments.

280. In a distributed, protected, programmable component arrangement comprising at least two tamper resistant processing

environments including a microprocessor, memory, a task manager, memory manager and external interface controller, a method comprising

creating arbitrary components,

certifying the validity, integrity and/or trustedness of such components,

loading arbitrary components at least in part into the memory,

initiating one or more tasks associated with processing such components,

associating arbitrary events with such created components, and

securely delivering such created components between at least two of said at least two tamper resistant processing environments.

281. An electronic appliance comprising at least one CPU, memory, at least one system bus, at least one protected processing environment, and at least one of a Rights Operating System or Rights Operating System layer associated with a host operating system.

282. An operating system comprising at least one task manager, at least one memory manager, at least one input/output manager, at least one protected processing environment, means

for detecting events, means for associating events with rights control functions, means for performing rights control functions at least in part within such one or more protected processing environments.

283. In an operating system comprising at least one task manager, at least one memory manager, at least one input/output manager, at least one protected processing environment, an operating method comprising:

detecting events,
associating events with rights control functions, and
performing rights control functions at least in part within such one or more protected processing environments.

284. A method of business automation characterized by the steps of creating one or more secure containers including accounting and/or other administrative information, associating control information with such one or more secure containers including a description of (a) the one or more parties to whom the container may and/or must be delivered and/or (b) the operations that one or more parties may and/or must perform with respect to such accounting and/or other administrative information, delivering one or more of such containers to one or more parties, and enabling the description and/or enforcement of at least a portion of such control information prior, during and/or

subsequent to use of such accounting and/or other administrative information by one or more parties.

285. A method as in claim 282 where such control information further includes at least one requirement that audit information be collected and delivered to one or more auditing parties, and further includes the step of delivering at least a portion of such audit information to one or more parties.

286. A method as in claim 283 where at least a portion of such audit information is automatically processed by at least one of such auditing parties, and further includes the step of transmitting further accounting, administrative and/or audit information to one or more parties that may be the same and/or differ from the one or more parties from whom audit information was received based at least in part on the receipt and/or content of such received audit information.

287. A method as in claim 282 where at least two of such parties are associated with different businesses and/or other organizations and such control information includes information that at least in part describes an accounting, administrative, reporting and/or other audit relationship between such businesses and/or other organizations.

288. A method as in claim 282, 283, 284, or 285 where some or all of such accounting and/or other administrative information is included in such control information.

289. A business automation system characterized by:

means for creating one or more secure containers including accounting and/or other administrative information,

means for associating, with such one or more secure containers, control information including a description of (a) the one or more parties to whom the container may and/or must be delivered and/or (b) the operations that one or more parties may and/or must perform with respect to such accounting and/or other administrative information,

means for delivering one or more of such containers to one or more parties, and

means for enabling the description and/or enforcement of at least a portion of such control information prior, during and/or subsequent to use of such accounting and/or other administrative information by one or more parties.

290. A system as in claim 287 where the associating means further includes means for associating at least one requirement that audit information be collected and delivered to one or more auditing parties, and the delivering means includes

means for delivering at least a portion of such audit information to one or more parties.

291. A system as in claim 288 further including means for automatically processing at least a portion of such audit information, and the system further includes means for transmitting further accounting, administrative and/or audit information to one or more parties that may be the same and/or differ from the one or more parties from whom audit information was received based at least in part on the receipt and/or content of such received audit information.

292. A system as in claim 287 where at least two of such parties are associated with different businesses and/or other organizations and the associating means includes means for generating control information including information that at least in part describes an accounting, administrative, reporting and/or other audit relationship between such businesses and/or other organizations.

293. A system as in claim 286, 287, 288, or 290 where some or all of such accounting and/or other administrative information is included in such control information.

294. A method of distributing content characterized by the steps of creating one or more first secure containers, associating control information with such first containers including information describing the conditions under which some or all of the content of such first containers may be extracted, delivering at least a portion of such first containers and such control information to one or more parties, detecting a request by one or more of such parties to extract some or all of the content of such first containers, determining if such request is permitted in whole or in part by such control information, to the extent permitted by such control information creating one or more second secure containers in accordance with such request and such control information, associating control information with such one or more second secure containers based at least in part on control information associated with such first containers.

295. A system for distributing content characterized by:
means for creating one or more first secure containers,
means for associating control information with such first containers including information describing the conditions under which some or all of the content of such first containers may be extracted,
means for delivering at least a portion of such first containers and such control information to one or more parties,

means for detecting a request by one or more of such parties to extract some or all of the content of such first containers,

means for determining if such request is permitted in whole or in part by such control information, to the extent permitted by such control information creating one or more second secure containers in accordance with such request and such control information, and

means for associating control information with such one or more second secure containers based at least in part on control information associated with such first containers.

296. A method of distributing content characterized by the steps of creating one or more first secure containers, associating control information with such first secure containers including information describing the conditions under which such first secure containers (a) may in whole or in part be embedded into and/or securely associated with one or more second secure containers and/or (b) may allow one or more secure containers to be in whole or in part embedded into and/or securely associated with such first secure containers, delivering at least a portion of such first secure containers and such control information to one or more parties, detecting a request by one or more of such parties or by additional parties to (a) in whole or in part embed into and/or securely associate with such first containers one or

more second containers and/or (b) in whole or in part embed into and/or securely associate with a secure container such first secure containers, determining if such request is permitted by control information, to the extent permitted by control information performing one or more embedding and/or secure association operations, to the extent required by control information and/or requested by one or more of such parties, modifying and/or creating new control information at least in part as a consequence of such one or more embedding and/or secure association operations.

297. A system for distributing content characterized by means for creating one or more first secure containers, means for associating control information with such first secure containers including information describing the conditions under which such first secure containers (a) may in whole or in part be embedded into and/or securely associated with one or more second secure containers and/or (b) may allow one or more secure containers to be in whole or in part embedded into and/or securely associated with such first secure containers, means for delivering at least a portion of such first secure containers and such control information to one or more parties, means for detecting a request by one or more of such parties to (a) in whole or in part embed into and/or securely associate with such first containers one or more second

containers and/or (b) in whole or in part embed into and/or securely associate with a secure container such first secure containers, and

means for determining if such request is permitted by control information, to the extent permitted by control information performing one or more embedding and/or secure association operations, to the extent required by control information and/or requested by one or more of such parties, modifying and/or creating new control information at least in part as a consequence of such one or more embedding and/or secure association operations.

298. A method of distributing information characterized by the steps of protecting information from unauthorized use, associating control information with such protected information, delivering at least a portion of such protected information to one or more parties using plural pathways, delivering at least a portion of such control information to one or more parties using the same or different plural pathways, enabling at least one of such parties to make at least some use of such protected information delivered using a first pathway in accordance with control information at least a portion of which is delivered using a second pathway.

299. A method as in claim 296 in which at least one of such pathways of delivering protected information and/or control information is described by such control information.

300. A system for distributing information characterized by:

means for protecting information from unauthorized use,
means for associating control information with such protected information,

means for delivering at least a portion of such protected information to one or more parties using plural pathways,

means for delivering at least a portion of such control information to one or more parties using the same or different plural pathways,

means for enabling at least one of such parties to make at least some use of such protected information delivered using a first pathway in accordance with control information at least a portion of which is delivered using a second pathway.

301. A system as in claim 298 wherein the delivering means includes means for delivering, over at least one of such pathways, protected information and/or control information described by such control information.

302. A method of distributing information characterized by the steps of protecting information from unauthorized use, associating control information with such protected information including information requiring the collection of audit information, enabling one or more parties to receive and/or process audit information, delivering at least a portion of such protected information and such control information to one or more parties, enabling at least some use of such protected information in accordance with at least a portion of such control information that requires the collection of audit information, delivering such audit information to one or more of such enabled auditing parties different from such delivering party or parties.

303. A method as in claim 300 in which at least one of such auditing parties is specified in such control information.

304. A system for distributing information characterized by

- means for protecting information from unauthorized use,
- means for associating control information with such protected information including information requiring the collection of audit information,
- means for enabling one or more parties to receive and/or process audit information,

means for delivering at least a portion of such protected information and such control information to one or more parties,

means for enabling at least some use of such protected information in accordance with at least a portion of such control information that requires the collection of audit information, and

means for delivering such audit information to one or more of such enabled auditing parties different from such delivering party or parties.

305. A system as in claim 302 in which at least one of such auditing parties is specified in such control information.

306. A secure component-based operating process including:

(a) retrieving at least one component;

(b) retrieving a record that specifies a component

assembly;

(c) checking said component and/or said record for validity;

(d) using said component to form said component assembly in accordance with said record; and

(e) performing a process based at least in part on said component assembly.

307. A process as in claim 304 wherein said step (c) further comprises executing said component assembly.

308. A process as in claim 304 wherein said component comprises executable code.

309. A process as in claim 304 wherein said component comprises a load module.

310. A process as in claim 304 wherein:

said record comprises:

(i) directions for assembling said component assembly;

and

(ii) information that at least in part specifies a control;

and

said process further comprises controlling said step (d) and/or said step (e) based at least in part on said control.

311. A process as in claim 304 wherein said component has a security wrapper, and said controlling step comprises selectively opening said security wrapper based at least in part on said control.

312. A process as in claim 304 wherein:

said permissions record includes at least one decryption key; and

said controlling step includes controlling use of said decryption key.

313. A process as in claim 304 including performing at least two of said steps (a) and (e) within a protected processing environment.

314. A process as in claim 304 including performing at least two of said steps (a) and (e) at least in part within tamper-resistant hardware.

315. A method as in claim 304 wherein said performing step (e) includes metering usage.

316. A method as in claim 304 wherein said performing step (e) includes auditing usage.

317. A method as in claim 304 wherein said performing step (e) includes budgeting usage.

318. A secure component operating system process including:

receiving a component;

receiving directions specifying use of said component to form a component assembly;

authenticating said received component and/or said directions;

forming, using said component, said component assembly based at least in part on said received directions; and using said component assembly to perform at least one operation.

319. A method comprising performing the following steps within a secure operating system environment:

providing code;

providing directions specifying assembly of said code into an executable program;

checking said received code and/or said assembly directors for validity; and

in response to occurrence of an event, assembling said code in accordance with said received assembly directions to form an assembly for execution.

320. A method for managing at least one resource with a secure operating environment, said method comprising:

securely receiving a first control from a first entity external to said operating environment;

securely receiving a second control from a second entity external to said operating environment, said second entity being different from said first entity;

securely processing, using at least one resource, a data item associated with said first and second controls; and

securely applying said first and second controls to manage said resource for use with said data item.

321. A method for securely managing at least one operation on a data item performed at least in part by an electronic arrangement, said method comprising:

- (a) securely delivering a first procedure to said electronic arrangement;
- (b) securely delivering, to said electronic arrangement, a second procedure separable or separate from said first procedure;
- (c) performing at least one operation on said data item, including using said first and second procedures in combination to at least in part securely manage said operation; and
- (d) securely conditioning at least one aspect of use of said data item based on said delivering steps (a) and (b) having occurred.

322. A method as in claim 319 including performing said delivering step (b) at a time different from the time said delivering step (a) is performed.

323. A method as in claim 319 wherein said step (a) includes delivering said first procedure from a first source, and said step (b) includes delivering said second procedure from a second source different from said first source.

324. A method as in claim 319 further including ensuring the integrity of said first and second procedures.

325. A method as in claim 319 further including validating each of said first and second procedures.

326. A method as in claim 319 further including authenticating each of said first and second procedures.

327. A method as in claim 319 wherein said using step (c) includes executing at least one of said first and second procedures within a tamper-resistant environment.

328. A method as in claim 319 wherein said step (c) includes the step of controlling said data item with at least one of said first and second procedures.

329. A method as in claim 319 further including establishing a relationship between at least one of said first and second procedures and said data item.

330. A method as in claim 319 further including establishing correspondence between said data item and at least one of said first and second procedures.

331. A method as in claim 319 wherein said delivering step (b) comprises delivering at least one load module encrypted at least in part.

332. A method as in claim 329 wherein said delivering step (a) comprises delivering at least one further load module encrypted at least in part.

333. A method as in claim 319 wherein said delivering step (b) comprises delivering at least one content container carrying at least in part secure control information.

334. A method as in claim 319 wherein said delivering step (b) comprises delivering a control method and at least one further method.

335. A method as in claim 319 wherein said delivering step (a) includes:

encrypting at least a portion of said first procedure,
communicating said at least in part encrypted first
procedure to said electronic arrangement,

decrypting at least a portion of said first procedure at least
in part using said electronic arrangement, and

validating said first procedure with said electronic
arrangement.

336. A method as in claim 319 wherein said delivering step (b) includes delivering at least one of said first and second procedures within an administrative object.

337. A method as in claim 319 wherein said delivering step (b) includes codelivering said second procedure in at least in part encrypted form with said data item.

338. A method as in claim 319 wherein said performing step includes metering usage.

339. A method as in claim 319 wherein said performing step includes auditing usage.

340. A method as in claim 319 wherein said performing step includes budgeting usage.

341. A method for securely managing at least one operation performed at least in part by a secure electronic appliance, comprising:

(a) selecting an item that is protected with respect to at least one operation;

(b) securely independently delivering plural separate procedures to said electronic appliance;

(c) using said plural separate procedures in combination to at least in part securely manage said operation with respect to said selected item; and

(d) conditioning successful completion of said operation on said delivering step (b) having occurred.

342. A method for processing based on deliverables comprising:

securely delivering a first piece of code defining a first part of a process;

separately, securely delivering a second piece of code defining a second part of said process;

ensuring the integrity of the first and second delivered pieces of code; and

performing said process based at least in part on said first and second delivered code pieces.

343. A method as in claim 340 wherein a first piece of code for said process at least in part controls decrypting content.

344. A method as in claim 340 wherein said ensuring step includes validating said first and second pieces of code.

345. A method as in claim 340 wherein said ensuring step includes validating said first and second pieces of code relative to one another.

346. A method as in claim 340 wherein said performing step includes metering usage.

347. A method as in claim 340 wherein said performing step includes auditing activities.

348. A method as in claim 340 wherein said performing step includes budgeting usage.

349. A method as in claim 340 wherein said performing step includes electronically processing content based on electronic controls.

350. A method of securely controlling at least one protected operation with respect to a data item comprising:

- (a) supplying at least a first control from a first party;
- (b) supplying at least a second control from a second party different from said first party;
- (c) securely combining said first and second controls to form a set of controls;

(d) securely associating said control set with said data item; and

(e) securely controlling at least one protected operation with respect to said data item based on said control set.

351. A method as in claim 348 wherein said data item is protected.

352. A method as in claim 348 wherein at least one of said plural controls includes a control relating to metering at least one aspect of use of said protected data item.

353. A method as in claim 348 wherein at least one of said plural controls include a control relating to budgeting at least one aspect of use of said protected data item.

354. A secure method for combining data items into a composite data item comprising:

(a) securely providing a first data item having at least a first control associated therewith;

(b) securely providing a second data item having at least a second control associated therewith;

(c) forming a composite of said first and second data items;

(d) securely combining said first and second controls into a composite control set; and

(e) performing at least one operation on said composite of said first and second data items based at least in part on said composite control set.

355. A method as in claim 352 wherein said combining step includes preserving each of said first and second controls in said composite set.

356. A method as in claim 352 wherein said performing step comprises governing the operation on said composite of said first and second data items in accordance with said first control and said second control .

357. A method as in claim 352 wherein said providing step includes ensuring the integrity of said association between said first controls and said first data item is maintained during at least one of transmission, storage and processing of said first data item.

358. A method as in claim 352 wherein said providing step comprises delivering said first data item separately from said first control .

359. A method as in claim 352 wherein said providing step comprises codelivering said first data item and said first control .

360. A secure method for controlling a protected operation comprising:

(a) delivering at least a first control and a second control;

and

(b) controlling at least one protected operation based at least in part on a combination of said first and second controls, including at least one of the following steps:

resolving at least one conflict between said first and second controls based on a predefined order;

providing an interaction with a user to form said combination; and

dynamically negotiating between said first and second controls.

361. A method as in claim 358 wherein said controlling step (b) includes controlling decryption of electronic content.

362. A method as in claim 358 further including:

receiving protected electronic content from a party; and

authenticating the identity of said party prior to using said received protected electronic content.

363. A secure method comprising:
selecting protected data;
extracting said protected data from an object;
identifying at least one control to manage at least one
aspect of use of said extracted data;
placing said extracted data into a further object; and
associating said at least one control with said further
object.

364. A method as in claim 361 further including limiting
at least one aspect of use of said further object based on said at
least one control.

365. A secure method of modifying a protected object
comprising:
(a) providing a protected object; and
(b) embedding at least one additional element into said
protected object without unprotecting said object.

366. A method as in claim 60 further including:
associating at least one control with said object; and
limiting usage of said element in accordance with said
control.

367. A method as in claim 363 further including a permissions record within said object.

368. A method as in claim 364 further including at least in part encrypting said object.

369. A method for managing at least one resource with a secure operating environment, said method comprising:

securely receiving a first load module from a first entity external to said operating environment;

securely receiving a second load module from a second entity external to said operating environment, said second entity being different from said first entity;

securely processing, using at least one resource, a data item associated with said first and second load modules; and

securely applying said first and second load modules to manage said resource for use with said data item.

370. A method for negotiating electronic contracts, comprising:

receiving a first control set from a remote site;

providing a second control set;

performing, within a protected processing environment, an electronic negotiation between said first control set and said

second control set, including providing interaction between said first and second control sets; and
producing a negotiated control set resulting from said interaction between said first and second control sets.

371. A system for supporting electronic commerce including:

means for creating a first secure control set at a first location;

means for creating a second secure control set at a second location;

means for securely communicating said first secure control set from said first location to said second location; and

means at said second location for securely integrating said first and second control sets to produce at least a third control set comprising plural elements together comprising an electronic value chain extended agreement.

372. A system for supporting electronic commerce including:

means for creating a first secure control set at a first location;

means for creating a second secure control set at a second location;

means for securely communicating said first secure control set from said first location to said second location; and

negotiation means at said second location for negotiating an electronic contract through secure execution of at least a portion of said first and second secure control sets.

373. A system as in claim 370 further including means for controlling use by a user of protected information content based on at least a portion of said first and/or second control sets.

374. A system as in claim 370 further including means for charging for at least a part of said content use.

375. A secure component-based operating system including:

component retrieving means for retrieving at least one component;

record retrieving means for retrieving a record that specifies a component assembly;

checking means, operatively coupled to said component retrieving means and said record retrieving means, for checking said component and/or said record for validity;

using means, coupled to said checking means, for using said component to form said component assembly in accordance with said record; and

performing means, coupled to said using means, for performing a process based at least in part on said component assembly.

376. A secure component-based operating system including:

a database manager that retrieves, from a secure database, at least one component and at least one record that specifies a component assembly;

an authenticating manager that checks said component and/or said record for validity;

a channel manager that uses said component to form said component assembly in accordance with said record; and

an execution manager that performs a process based at least in part on said component assembly.

377. A secure component operating system including:

means for receiving a component;

means for receiving directions specifying use of said component to form a component assembly;

means, coupled to said receiving means, for authenticating said received component and/or said directions;

means, coupled to said authenticating means, for forming, using said component, said component assembly based at least in part on said received directions; and

means, coupled to said forming means, for using said component assembly to perform at least one operation.

378. A secure component operating environment including:

a storage device that stores a component and directions specifying use of said component to form a component assembly;

an authenticating manager that authenticates said component and/or said directions;

a channel manager that forms, using said component, said component assembly based at least in part on said directions; and

a channel that executes said component assembly to perform at least one operation.

379. A secure operating system environment comprising:

a storage device that stores code and directions specifying assembly of said code into an executable program;

a validating device that checks said received code and/or said assembly directors for validity; and

an event-driven channel that, in response to occurrence of an event, assembles said code in accordance with said assembly directions to form an assembly for execution.

380. A secure operating environment system for managing at least one resource comprising:

a communications arrangement that securely receives a first control from a first entity external to said operating environment, and securely receives a second control from a second entity external to said operating environment, said second entity being different from said first entity; and

a protected processing environment, coupled to said communications arrangement, that:

(a) securely processes, using at least one resource, a data item associated with said first and second controls, and

(b) securely applies said first and second controls to manage said resource for use of said data item.

381. A system for negotiating electronic contracts, comprising:

a storage arrangement that stores a first control set received from a remote site, and stores a second control set;

a protected processing environment, coupled to said storage arrangement, that:

(a) performs an electronic negotiation between said first control set and said second control set,

(b) provides interaction between said first and second control sets, and

(c) produces a negotiated control set resulting from said interaction between said first and second control sets.

382. A system as in claim 379 further including means for electronically enforcing said negotiated control set.

383. A system as in claim 379 further including means for generating an electronic contract based on said negotiated control set.

384. A method for supporting electronic commerce including:

creating a first secure control set at a first location;

creating a second secure control set;

electronically negotiating, at said location different from said first location, an electronic contract, including the step of securely executing at least a portion of said first and second control sets.

385. An electronic appliance comprising:

a processor; and

at least one memory device connected to said processor;

wherein said processor includes:

retrieving means for retrieving at least one component, and at least one record that specifies a component assembly, from said memory device,

checking means coupled to said retrieving means for checking said component and/or said record for validity, and

using means coupled to said retrieving means for using said component to form said component assembly in accordance with said record.

386. An electronic appliance comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one memory device connected to said processor;

and

at least one input/output connection operatively coupled to said processor,

wherein said processor at least in part executes a rights operating system to provide a secure operating environment within said electronic appliance.

387. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 wherein said processor includes means for providing a channel, said channel assembling independently deliverable components into a component assembly and executing said component assembly.

388. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 further including a secondary storage device coupled to said processor, said secondary storage device storing a secure database, said processor including means for decrypting information obtained from said secure database and for encrypting information to be written to said secure database.

389. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 wherein said processor and said memory device are disposed in a secure, tamper-resistance encapsulation.

390. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 wherein said processor includes a hardware encryptor/decryptor.

391. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 wherein said processor includes a real time clock.

392. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 wherein said processor includes a random number generator.

393. An electronic appliance as in claim 384 wherein said memory device stores audit information.

394. A method for auditing the use of at least one resource with a secure operating environment, said method comprising:

securely receiving a first control from a first entity external to said operating environment;

securely receiving a second control from a second entity external to said operating environment, said second entity being different from said first entity;

using at least one resource;

securely sending to said first entity in accordance with said first control, first audit information concerning use of said resource; and

securely sending to said second entity in accordance with said second control, second audit information concerning use of said resource, said second audit information being at least in part different from said first audit information.

395. A method for auditing the use of at least one resource with a secure operating environment, said method comprising:

securely receiving first and second control alternatives from an entity external to said operating environment;

selecting one of said first and second control alternatives; using at least one resource;

if said first control alternative is selected by said selecting step, securely sending to said entity in accordance with said first control alternative, first audit information concerning use of said resource; and

if said second control alternative is selected by said selecting step, securely sending to said second entity in accordance with said second control alternative, second audit information concerning use of said resource, said second audit information being at least in part different from said first audit information.

396. A method and/or system for enabling a sale of protected digital information that has been previously distributed to users, the method or system being characterized by a secure element that selectively controls access to the protected digital information based on electronic controls associated with the information.

397. A distributed, secure electronic point of sale system or method characterized by a secure processing element for selectively releasing goods and/or services in exchange for compensation.

398. In a distributed digital network, an advertising method characterized by the steps of tracking usage of digital information that has associated with it one or more controls with respect to access to and/or usage of said information; and targeting advertising messages based at least in part on said tracking.

399. A distributed electronic advertising system characterized in that the system uses a distributed network of interoperable protected processing environments to at least in part deliver advertising to users.

400. A distributed, secure, virtual black box comprised of nodes located at VDE content container creators, other content providers, client users, and recipients of secure VDE content usage information) site, the nodes of said virtual black box including a secure subsystem having at least one secure hardware element such as a semiconductor element or other hardware module for securely executing VDE control processes, said secure subsystems being distributed at nodes along a pathway of information storage, distribution, payment, usage, and/or auditing.

401. A protected processing system or method providing multiple currencies and/or payment arrangements for the secure processing and releasing of protected digital information.

402. A distributed secure method or system characterized in that a user's age is used as a criteria for electronically, securely releasing information and/or resources to the user.

403. A method of renting an electronic appliance defining a secure processing environment.

404. A virtual distribution environment providing any one or more of the following features and/or elements and/or combinations thereof:

a configurable protected, distributed event management system; and/or

a trusted, distributed transaction and storage management arrangement; and/or

plural pathways for providing information, for control information, and/or for reporting; and/or

multiple payment methods; and/or

multiple currencies; and/or

EDI; and/or

Electronic banking; and/or

electronic document management; and/or

electronic secure communication; and/or

e-mail; and/or

distributed asynchronous reporting; and/or

combination asynchronous and online management; and/or

privacy control by users; and/or

testing; and/or

using age as a class; and/or

appliance control (renting, etc.); and/or

telecommunications infrastructure; and/or

games management; and/or

extraction of content from an electronic container; and/or

embedding of content into an electronic container; and/or

multiple certificate to allow for breach of a key; and/or

virtual black box; and/or

independence of control information from content; and/or
multiple, separate, simultaneous control sets for one digital
information property; and/or
updating control information for already distributed digital
information; and/or
organization information management; and/or
coupled external and organization internal chain of
handling and control; and/or
a content usage consequence management system
(reporting, payment, etc., multiple directions); and/or
a content usage reporting system providing differing audit
information and/or reduction going to multiple parties holding
rights in content; and/or
an automated remote secure object creation system; and/or
infrastructure background analysis to identify improper
use; and/or
seniority of control information system; and/or
secure distribution and enforcement of rules and controls
separately from the content they apply to; and/or
redistribution management by controlling the rights and/or
number of copies and or pieces etc. that may be redistributed;
and/or
an electronic commerce taxation system; and/or
an electronic shopping system; and/or
an electronic catalog system; and/or

a system handling electronic banking, electronic shopping,
and electronic content usage management; and/or
an electronic commerce multimedia system; and/or
a distributed, secure, electronic point of sale system; and/or
advertising; and/or
electronics rights management; and/or
a distributed electronic commerce system; and/or
a distributed transaction system or environment; and/or
a distributed event management system; and/or
a distributed right systems.

405. A Virtual Distribution Environment substantially as
shown in Figure 1.

406. An "Information Utility" substantially as shown in
Figure 1A.

407. A chain of handling and control substantially as
shown in Figure 1.

408. Persistent rules and control information substantially
as shown in Figure 2A.

409. A method of providing different control information
substantially as shown in Figure 1.

410. Rules and/or control information substantially as shown in Figure 4.

411. An object substantially as shown in Figures 5A and 5B.

412. A Secure Processing Unit substantially as shown in Figure 6.

413. An electronic appliance substantially as shown in Figure 7.

414. An electronic appliance substantially as shown in Figure 8.

415. A Secure Processing Unit substantially as shown in Figure 9.

416. A "Rights Operating System" ("ROS") architecture substantially as shown in Figure 10.

417. Functional relationship(s) between applications and the Rights Operating System substantially as shown in Figures 11A-11C.

418. Components and component assemblies substantially as shown in Figures 11D-11J.

419. A Rights Operating System substantially as shown in FIGURE 12.

420. A method of objection creation substantially as shown in Figure 12A.

421. A "protected processing environment" software architecture substantially as shown in Figure 13.

422. A method of supporting a channel substantially as shown in Figure 15.

423. A channel header and channel detail record substantially as shown in Figure 15 A.

424. A method of creating a channel substantially as shown in Figure 15B.

425. A secure data base substantially as shown in Figure 16.

426. A logical object substantially as shown in Figure 17.

427. A stationary object substantially as shown in
FIGURE 18.

428. A travelling object substantially as shown in FIGURE
19.

429. A content object substantially as shown in FIGURE
20.

430. An administrative object substantially as shown in
Figure 21.

431. A method core substantially as shown in Figure 22.

432. A load module substantially as shown in FIGURE
23.

433. A User Data Element (UDE) and/or Method Data
Element (MDE) substantially as shown in FIGURE 24.

434. Map meters substantially as shown in FIGURES
25A-25C.

435. A permissions record (PERC) substantially as shown
in FIGURE 26.

436. A permissions record (PERC) substantially as shown in FIGURES 26A and 26B.

437. A shipping table substantially as shown in FIGURE 27.

438. A receiving table substantially as shown in FIGURE 28.

439. An administrative event log substantially as shown in FIGURE 29.

440. A method of interrelating and using an object registration table, a subject table and a user rights table substantially as shown in Figure 30.

441. A method of using a site record table and a group record table to track portions of a secure database substantially as shown in FIGURE 34.

442. A process for updating a secure database substantially as shown in FIGURE 35.

443. A process of inserting new elements into a secure database substantially as shown in FIGURE 36.

444. A process of accessing elements in a secure database substantially as shown in FIGURE 37.

445. A process of protecting a secure database element substantially as shown in FIGURE 38.

446. A process of backing up a secure database substantially as shown in FIGURE 39.

447. A process of recovering a secure database substantially as shown in FIGURE 40.

448. A process of enabling performing reciprocal methods to provide a chain of handling and control substantially as shown in FIGURES 41A-41D.

449. A "reciprocal" BUDGET method substantially as shown in FIGURES 42A-42D.

450. A reciprocal audit method substantially as shown in FIGURES 44A-44C.

451. A method for controlling release of content or other method substantially as shown in any of FIGURES 45-48.

452. An event method substantially as shown in
FIGURES 53A-53B.

453. A billing method substantially as shown in FIGURE
53C.

454. An extract method substantially as shown in
FIGURE 57A.

455. An embed method substantially as shown in FIGURE
57A.

456. An obscure method substantially as shown in
FIGURE 58A.

457. A fingerprint method substantially as shown in
FIGURE 58B.

458. A fingerprint method substantially as shown in
FIGURE 58C.

459. A meter method substantially as shown in FIGURE
6.

460. A key "convolution" process substantially as shown in FIGURE 62.

461. A process of generating different keys using a key convolution process to determine a "true" key substantially as shown in FIGURE 63.

462. A process of initializing protected processing environment keys substantially as shown in FIGURES 64 and/or 65.

463. A process for decrypting information contained within stationary objects substantially as shown in FIGURE 66.

464. A process for decrypting information contained within traveling objects substantially as shown in FIGURE 67.

465. A process for initializing a protected processing environment substantially as shown in FIGURE 68.

466. A process of downloading firmware into a protected processing environment substantially as shown in FIGURE 69.

467. Multiple VDE electronic appliances connected together with a network or other communications means substantially as shown in FIGURE 70.

468. A portable VDE electronic appliance substantially as shown in FIGURE 71.

469. "Pop-up" displays that may be generated by the user notification and exception interface substantially as shown in Figures 72A-72D.

470. A smart object substantially as shown in FIGURE 73.

471. A method of processing smart objects substantially as shown in FIGURE 74.

472. Electronic negotiation substantially as shown in any of FIGURES 75A-75D.

473. An electronic agreement substantially as shown in FIGURES 75E-75F.

474. Electronic negotiation processes substantially as shown in any of FIGURES 76A-76B.

475. A chain of handling and control substantially as shown in FIGURE 77.

476. A VDE "repository" substantially as shown in FIGURE 78.

477. A process of using a chain of handling and control to evolve and transform VDE managed content and control information substantially as shown in any or all of FIGURES 79-83.

478. A chain of handling and control involving several categories of VDE participants substantially as shown in FIGURE 84.

479. A chain of distribution and handling within an organization substantially as shown in FIGURE 85.

480. A chain of handling and control substantially as shown in Figures 86 and/or 86A.

481. A virtual silicon container model substantially as shown in Figure 87.

482. A method of business automation characterized by the steps of (a) creating one or more secure containers including encrypted accounting and/or other administrative information content, (b) associating control information with one or more of such one or more secure containers including a description of (i) the one or more parties whom may use one or more of the one or more containers, and (ii) the operations that will be performed for one or more parties with respect to such accounting and/or other administrative information, (c) electronically delivering one or more of such one or more containers such to one or more parties, and (d) enabling through the use of a protected processing environment the enforcement of at least a portion of such control information.

483. A business automation system characterized by:
means for providing at least one secure container including administrative information content having control information associated therewith, and
a protected processing environment for enforcing, at least in part, the control information.

484. A business automation system comprising (a) distributed, interoperable protected processing environment installations, (b) secure containers for distribution of digital

information, (c) control information supporting the automation of chain of handling and control functions.

485. A method of business automation characterized by the steps of providing interoperable protected processing environment nodes to plural parties, communicating first encrypted digital information from a first party to a second party, communicating second encrypted digital information including at least a portion of said first communicated digital information and/or information related to the use of said first digital information, to a third party different from said first or second parties, wherein use of said second encrypted digital information is regulated, at least in part, by an interoperable protected processing environment available to said third party.

486. A business automation system characterized by:
plural protected processing environment nodes,
means for communicating digital information between the nodes, and

wherein at least one of the nodes includes means for regulating the use of said communicated digital information.

487. A method for chain of handling and control characterized by the steps of (a) a first party placing protected digital information into a first software container and stipulating

rules and controls governing use of at least a portion of said digital information, (b) providing said software container to a second party, wherein said second party places said software container into a further software container and stipulates rules and controls for at least in part managing use of at least a portion of said digital information and/or said first software container by a third party.

488. A chain of handling and control system characterized by:

means for placing digital information into a first software container and for stipulating rules and/or controls governing use of at least a portion of said digital information, and

means for placing said software container into a further software container and for stipulating further rules and/or controls for at least in part managing use of at least a portion of said digital information and/or said first software container.

489. A system for chain of handling and control including (a) a first container containing at least in part protected digital information, (b) at least in part protected control information stipulated by a first party establishing conditions for use of at least a portion of said digital content, (c) a second container different from said first container, said second container containing said first container, (d) control information stipulated

independently by a second party for at least in part setting conditions for managing use of the contents of said second container.

490. A system for electronic advertising including: (a) means to provide digital information to users for their use, (b) means to provide advertising content to said users in combination with said digital information, (c) means to audit use of said digital information, (d) means to securely acquire usage information regarding use of advertising content, (e) means to securely report information based upon said advertising content usage information, (f) compensating at least one content provider at least in part based upon use of said advertising content.

491. A method for electronic advertising characterized by the steps of (a) placing digital information into a container, (b) associating advertising information with at least a portion of said digital information, (c) securely providing said container to a container user, (d) monitoring user viewing of advertising information, and (d) receiving payment from an advertiser, wherein said payment is related to user viewing of said advertising information.

492. A system for electronic advertising involving (a) means to containerize digital information including both content

and advertising information, (b) means to monitor viewing of at least a portion of said advertising information, (c) means to charge for user viewing of at least a portion of said advertising information, (d) means to securely communicate information based upon said viewing in a secure container, and (e) control information related to said containerized digital information for managing the communication of said information based upon said viewing.

493. A method for electronic advertising characterized by the steps of (a) containerizing digital information including both content and advertising information, (b) monitoring user viewing of at least a portion of said advertising information, (c) charging for user viewing of at least a portion of said advertising information, (d) securely communicating information based upon said viewing in a secure container, and (e) at least in part managing, through the use of control information related to said advertising information, the communication of information based upon said viewing.

494. A method of clearing transaction information characterized by the steps of (a) securely distributing digital information to a first user of an interoperable protected processing environment, (b) securely distributing further digital information to a user of an interoperable protected processing

environment different from said at first user (c) receiving information related to usage of said digital information, (d) receiving information related to usage of said further digital information, and (e) processing information received according to steps (c) and (d) to perform at least one of (I) an administrative, or (II) an analysis, function.

495. A system for clearing transaction information including (a) a first container containing at least in part protected digital information and associated control information, (b) a second secure container containing further at least in part protected digital information and associated control information, (c) means to distribute said first and second containers to users, (d) communication means for communicating information at least in part derived from user usage of said first container digital information, (e) communication means for communicating information at least in part derived from user usage of said second container digital information, (f) processing means at a clearinghouse site for receiving the information communicated through steps (d) and (e), wherein said processing means perform administrative and/or analysis processing of at least a portion of said communicated information.

496. A method for clearinghouse analysis characterized by the steps of: (a) enabling plural independent clearinghouses for

administering and/or analyzing usage of distributed, at least in part protected, digital information, (b) providing interoperable protected processing environments to plural, independent users, and (c) enabling a user to select a clearinghouse for use with an interoperable protected processing environment

497. A system for clearinghouse analysis including (a) plural independent clearinghouses for administering and/or analyzing usage of distributed, at least in part protected, digital information, (b) at least one interoperable protected processing environments at each of plural user locations, (c) selecting means for enabling a user to select one of said plural independent clearinghouse to perform payment and/or analysis functions related to the use of at least a portion of said at least in part protected, digital information.

498. A method of electronic advertising characterized by the steps of

creating one or more electronic advertisements, creating one or more secure containers including at least a portion of such advertisements,

associating control information with such advertisements including control information describing at least one of: (a) reporting at least some advertisement usage information to one or more content providers, advertisers and/or agents, (b)

providing one or more credits to a user based on such user's viewing and/or other usage of such advertisements, (c) reporting advertisement usage information to one or more market analysts, (d) providing a user with ordering information for and/or means for ordering one or more products and/or services, and/or (e) providing one or more credits to a content provider based on one or more users' viewing and/or other usage of such advertisements,

providing such containers and such control information to one or more users,

enabling such users to use such containers at least in part in accordance with such control information.

499. A system for electronic advertising including (a) means to provide digital information to users for their use, (b) means to provide advertising content to said users in combination with said digital information, (c) means to audit use of said digital information, (d) means to acquire usage information regarding use of advertising content, (e) means to securely report information based upon said advertising content usage information, and (f) compensating at least one content provider at least in part based upon use of such advertising content.

500. A system for chain of handling and control including (a) a first container containing at least in part protected digital information, (b) at least in part protected control information stipulated by a first party establishing condition for use of at least a portion of said digital content, (c) a second container different from said first container, said second container containing said first container, and (d) control information stipulated independently by a second party for at least in part setting conditions for managing use of the contents of said second container.

501. A method of operating a clearinghouse characterized by the steps of receiving usage information related at least in part to use of secure containers from plural parties, determining payments due to one or more parties based at least in part on such usage information, performing and/or causing to be performed transactions resulting in payments to such parties based at least in part on such determinations.

502. An electronic clearinghouse comprising:
means for receiving usage information related at least in part to use of secure containers from plural parties,
means for determining payments due to one or more parties based at least in part on such usage information,

means for performing and/or causing to be performed transactions resulting in payments to such parties based at least in part on such determinations.

503. A method of operating a clearinghouse characterized by the steps of receiving usage information related at least in part to use of secure containers from plural parties, determining reports of usage for one or more parties based at least in part on such usage information, creating and/or causing to be created reports of usage based at least in part on such determination, delivering at least one of such reports to at least one of such parties.

504. A method of operating a clearinghouse characterized by the steps of receiving permissions and/or other control information from one or more content providers including information that enables delivery of at least one right in at least one secure container to other parties, receiving requests from plural parties for one or more rights in one or more secure containers, delivering permissions and/or other control information to such parties based at least in part on such requests.

505. A method of operating a clearinghouse characterized by the steps of receiving information from one or more parties

establishing a party's identity information, creating one or more electronic representations of at least a portion of such identity information for use in enabling and/or withholding at least one right in at least one secure container, performing an operation to certify such electronic representations, delivering such electronic representations to such party.

506. A method of operating a clearinghouse characterized by the steps of receiving a request for credit from a party for use with secure containers, determining an amount of credit based at least in part on such request, creating control information related to such an amount, delivering such control information to such user, receiving usage information related to use of such credit, performing and/or causing to be performed at least one transaction associated with collecting payment from such user.

507. A method for contributing secure control information with respect to an electronic value chain wherein control information is contributed by a party not directly participating in said value chain, comprising steps of: aggregating said contributed control information with control information associated with digital information stipulated by one or more parties in an electronic value chain, said aggregate control information at least in part managing conditions related to the use of at least a portion of said digital information.

508. A method for entering the payment of taxes associated with commercial events wherein secure control information for automatically governing tax payments for said commercial events is contributed by a party comprising steps of: aggregating said secure control information with control information that has been contributed by a separate party and controlling at least one condition for use of digital information.

509. A method for general purpose reusable electronic commerce arrangement characterized by the steps of:

(a) providing component structures, modular methods that can be configured together to comprise event controlled

(b) providing integrateable protected processing environments to plural independent users;

(c) employing secure communications means for communicating digital control information between integrateable protected processing environments; and

(d) enabling database managers operably connected to said processing environments for storing at least a portion of said provided component modular methods.

510. A system for general purpose, reusable electronic commerce including:

(a) component modular methods configured together to comprise event control structures;

(b) at least one interoperable processing environment at each of plural independent user locations;

(c) secure communications means for communicating digital control information between interoperable protected processing environments; and

(d) secured database managers operably connected to said protected processing environments for storing at least a portion of said component modular methods.

511. A general purpose electronic commerce credit system including:

(a) a secure interoperable protected processing environment;

(b) general purpose credit control information for providing credit for user usage of at least in part protected digital information; and

(c) at least in part protected digital information related control information for providing necessary information for employing credit through the use, at least in part, of said general purpose credit control information.

512. A method for enabling a general purpose electronic commerce credit system including:

(a) providing secure interoperable protected processing environments;

(b) supplying general purpose credit control information for providing credit for user usage of at least in part protected digital information; and

(c) providing, at least in part, protected digital information related control information for providing necessary information for employing credit through the use, at least in part, of said general purpose credit control information.

513. A document management system comprising one or more electronic appliances containing one or more SPUs and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of the SPUs.

514. An electronic contract system comprising one or more electronic appliances containing one or more SPUs and one or more secure databases operatively connected to at least one of the SPUs.

515. An electronic appliance containing at least one SPU and at least one secure database operatively connected to at least one of the SPU(s).

516. An electronic appliance containing one or more CPUs where at least one of the CPUs is integrated with at least one SPU.

517. An electronic appliance containing one or more video controllers where at least one of the video controllers is integrated with at least one SPU.

518. An electronic appliance containing one or more network communications means where at least one of the network communications means is integrated with at least one SPU.

519. An electronic appliance containing one or more modems where at least one of the modems is integrated with at least one SPU.

520. An electronic appliance containing one or more CD-ROM devices where at least one of the CD-ROM devices is integrated with at least one SPU.

521. An electronic appliance containing one or more set-top controllers where at least one of the set-top controllers is integrated with at least one SPU.

522. An electronic appliance containing one or more game systems where at least one of the game systems is integrated with at least one SPU.

523. An integrated circuit supporting multiple encryption algorithms comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, at least one circuit for encrypting and/or decrypting information and one or more software programs for use with at least one of the microprocessors to perform encryption and/or decryption functions.

524. An integrated circuit comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, at least one real time clock, at least one random number generator, at least one circuit for encrypting and/or decrypting information and independently delivered and/or independently deliverable certified software.

525. An integrated circuit comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, a tamper resistant barrier and at least a portion of a Rights Operating System.

526. An integrated circuit comprising at least one microprocessor, memory, input/output means, at least one real time clock, a tamper resistant barrier and means for recording interruption of power to at least one of the real time clocks.

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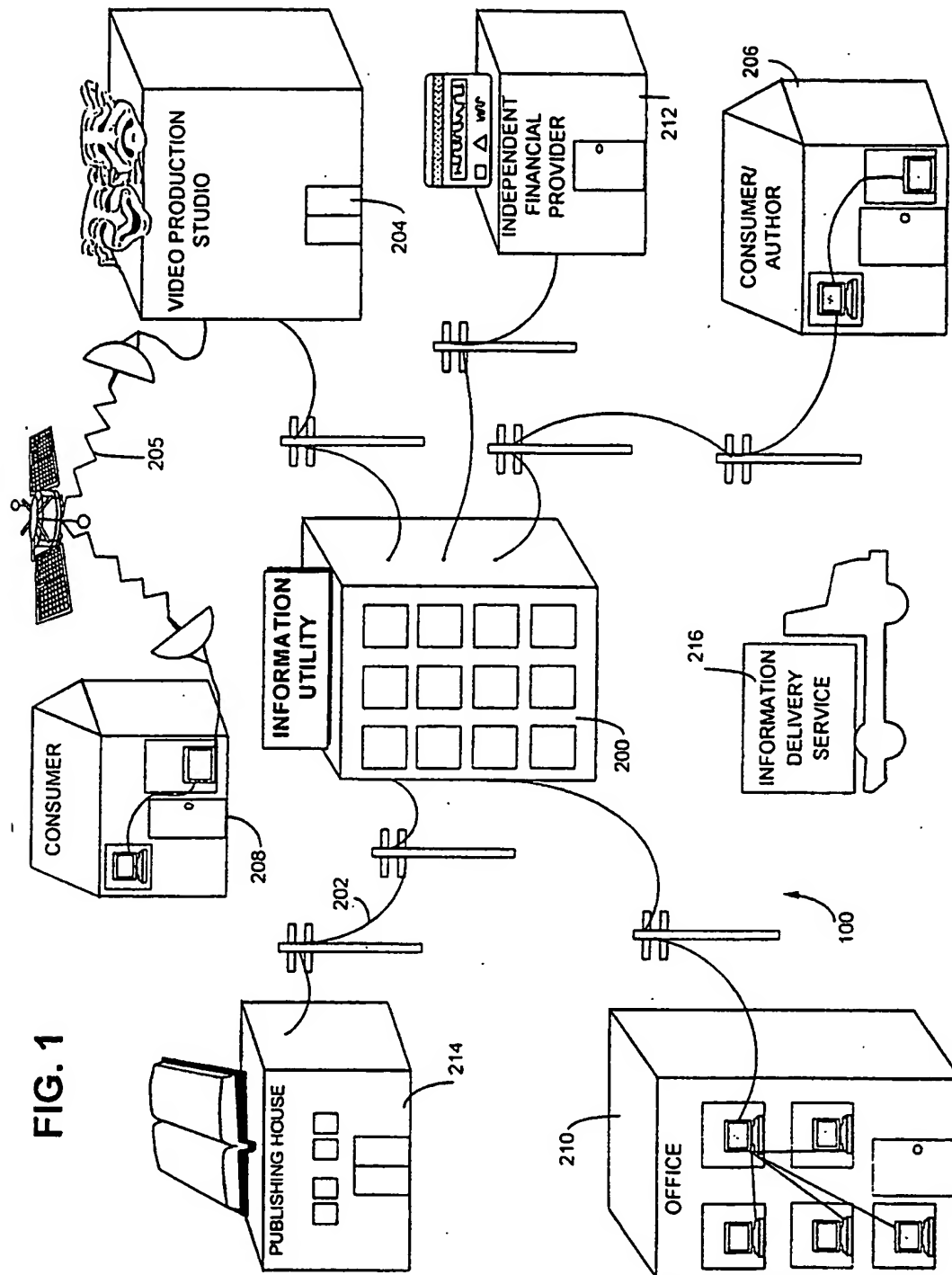


FIG. 1

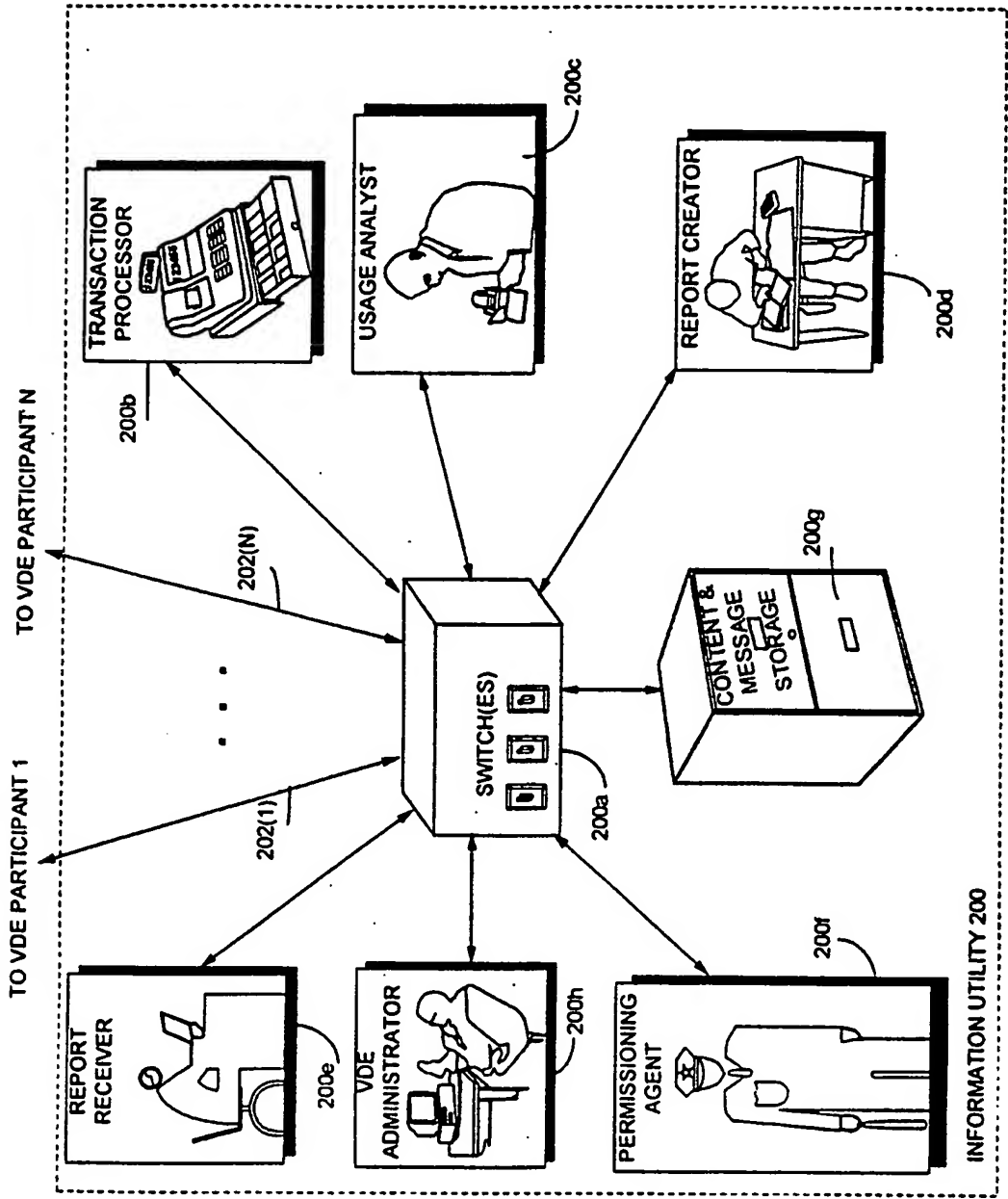
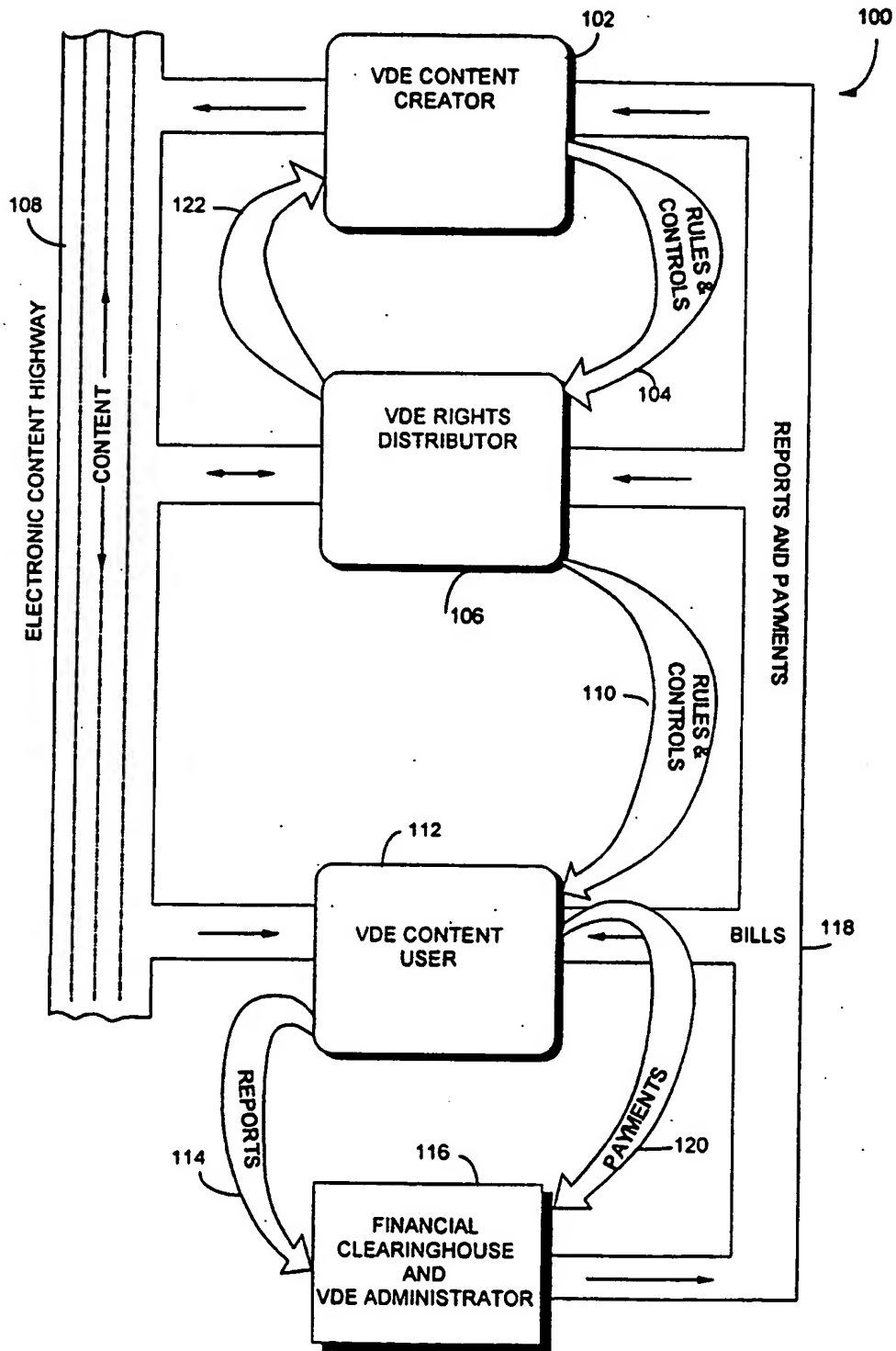


FIG. 1A

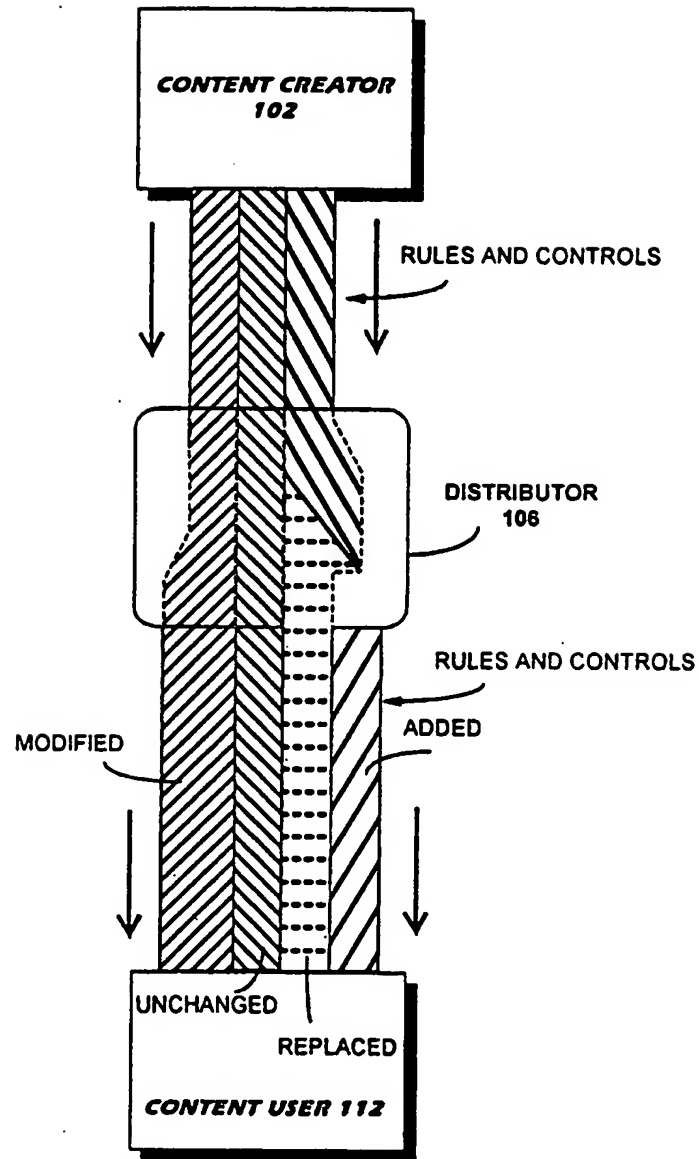
3/146

FIG. 2



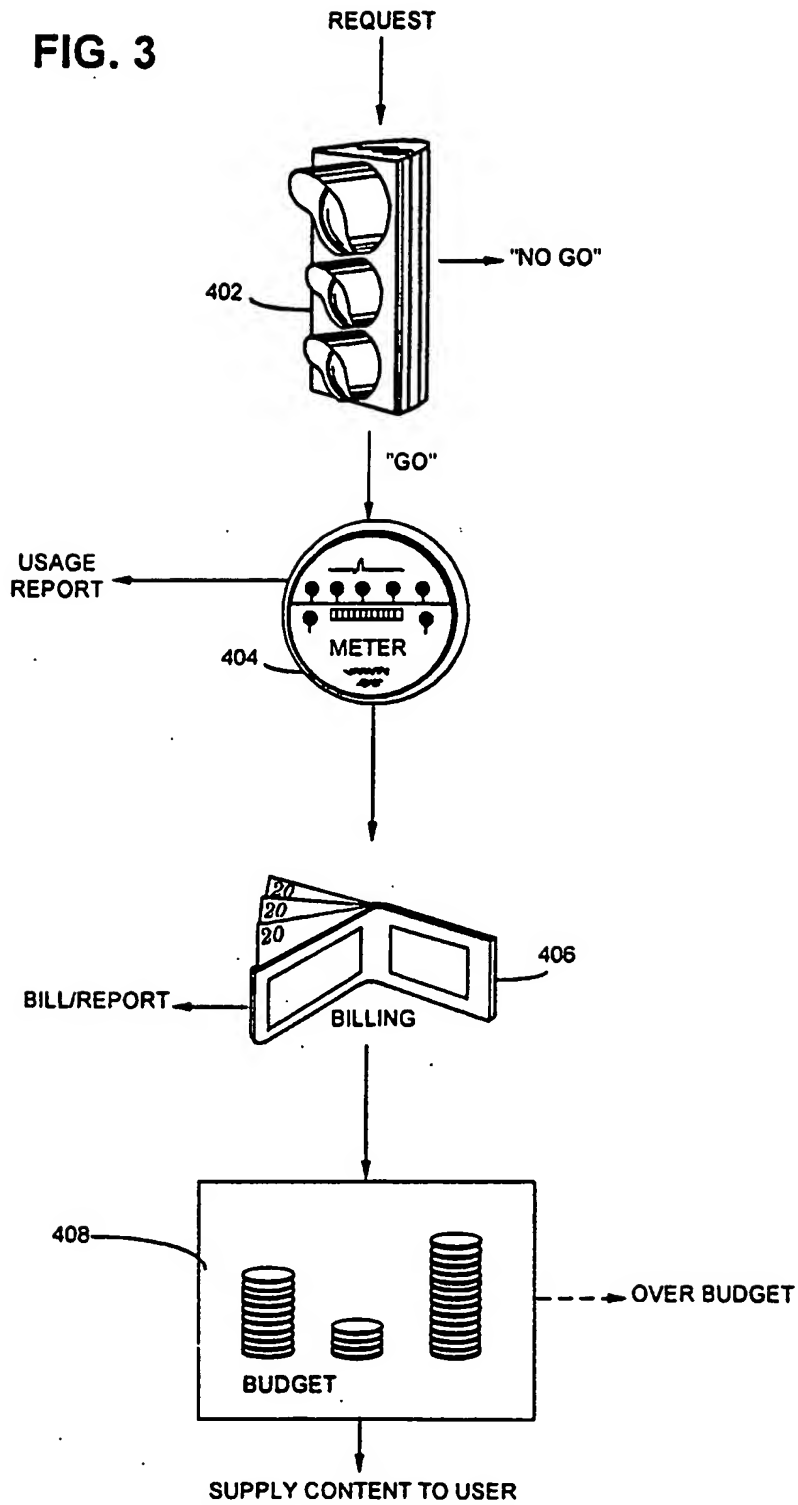
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FIG. 2A



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FIG. 3



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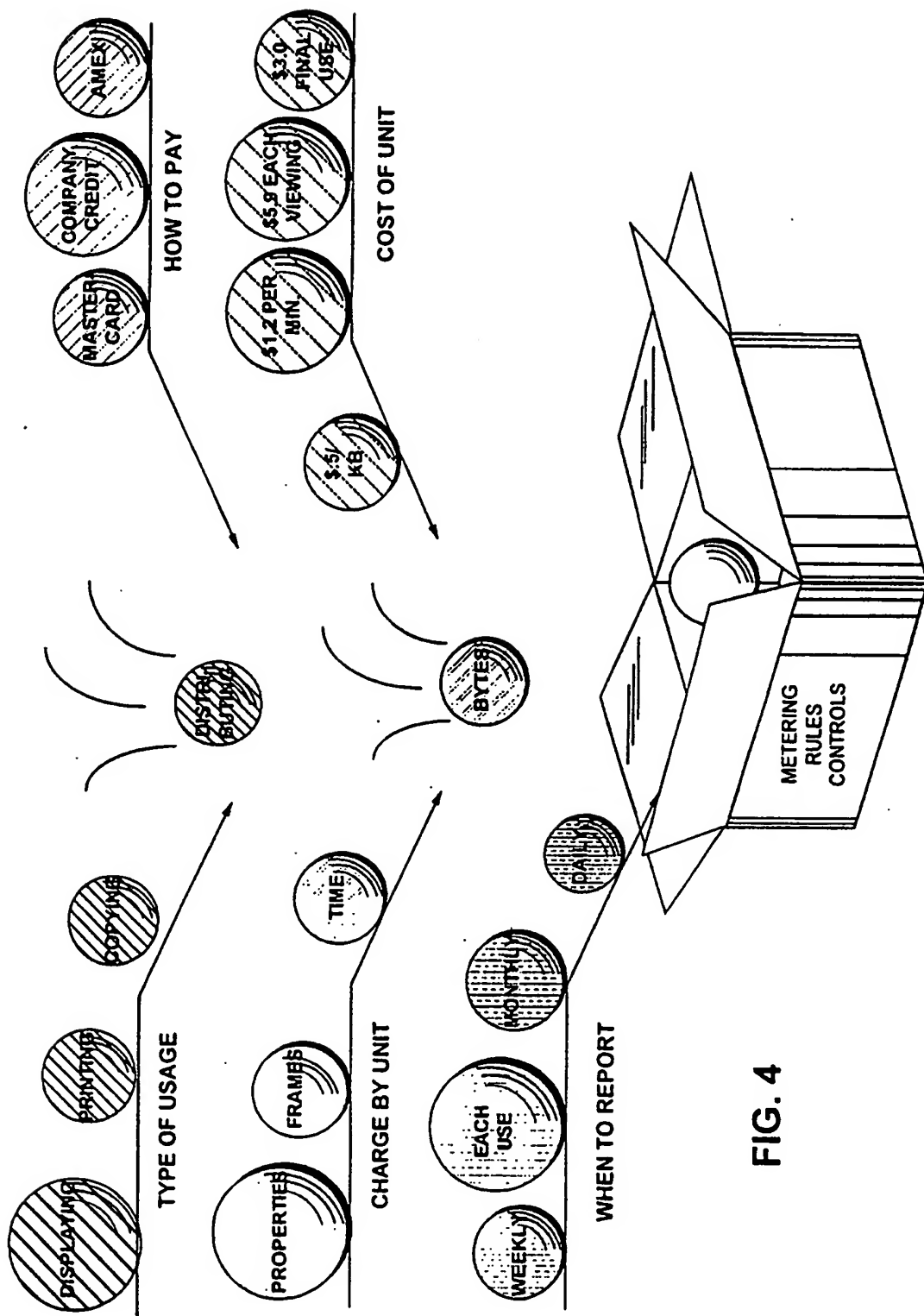
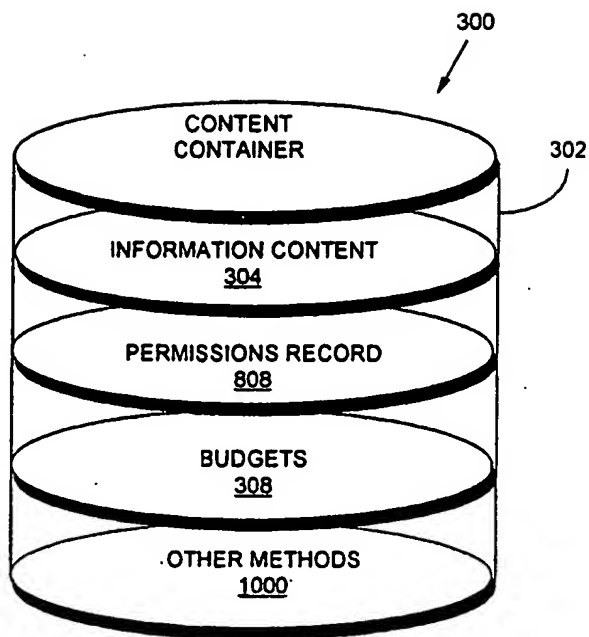


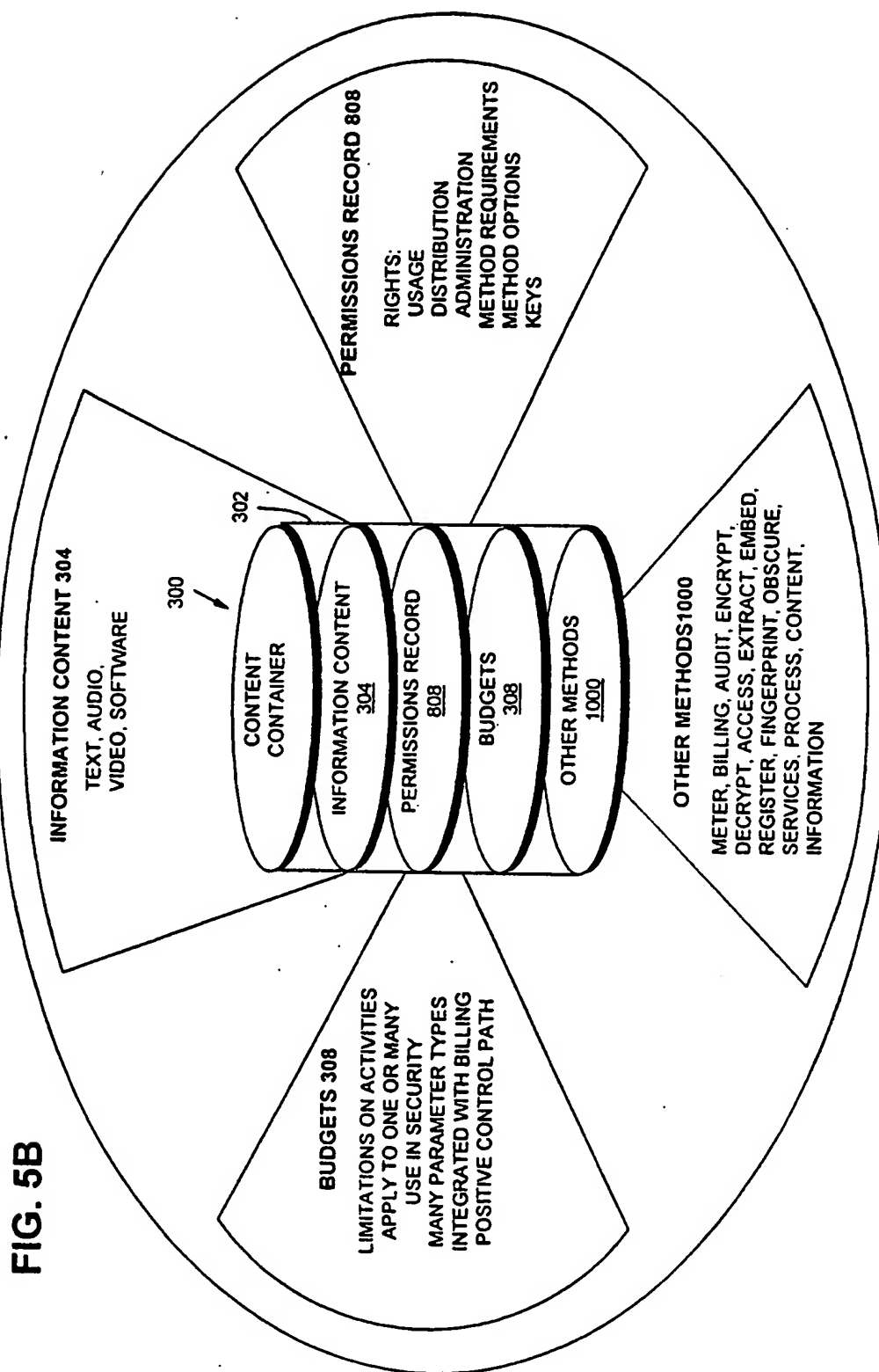
FIG. 4

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FIG. 5A

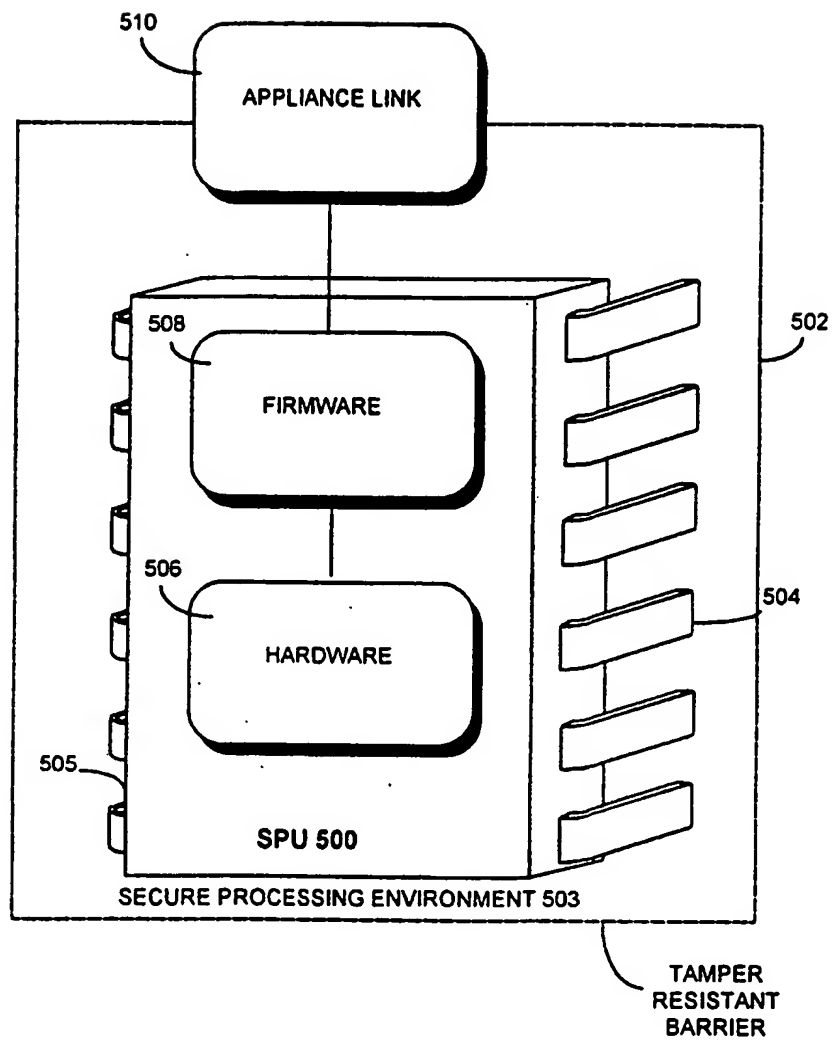


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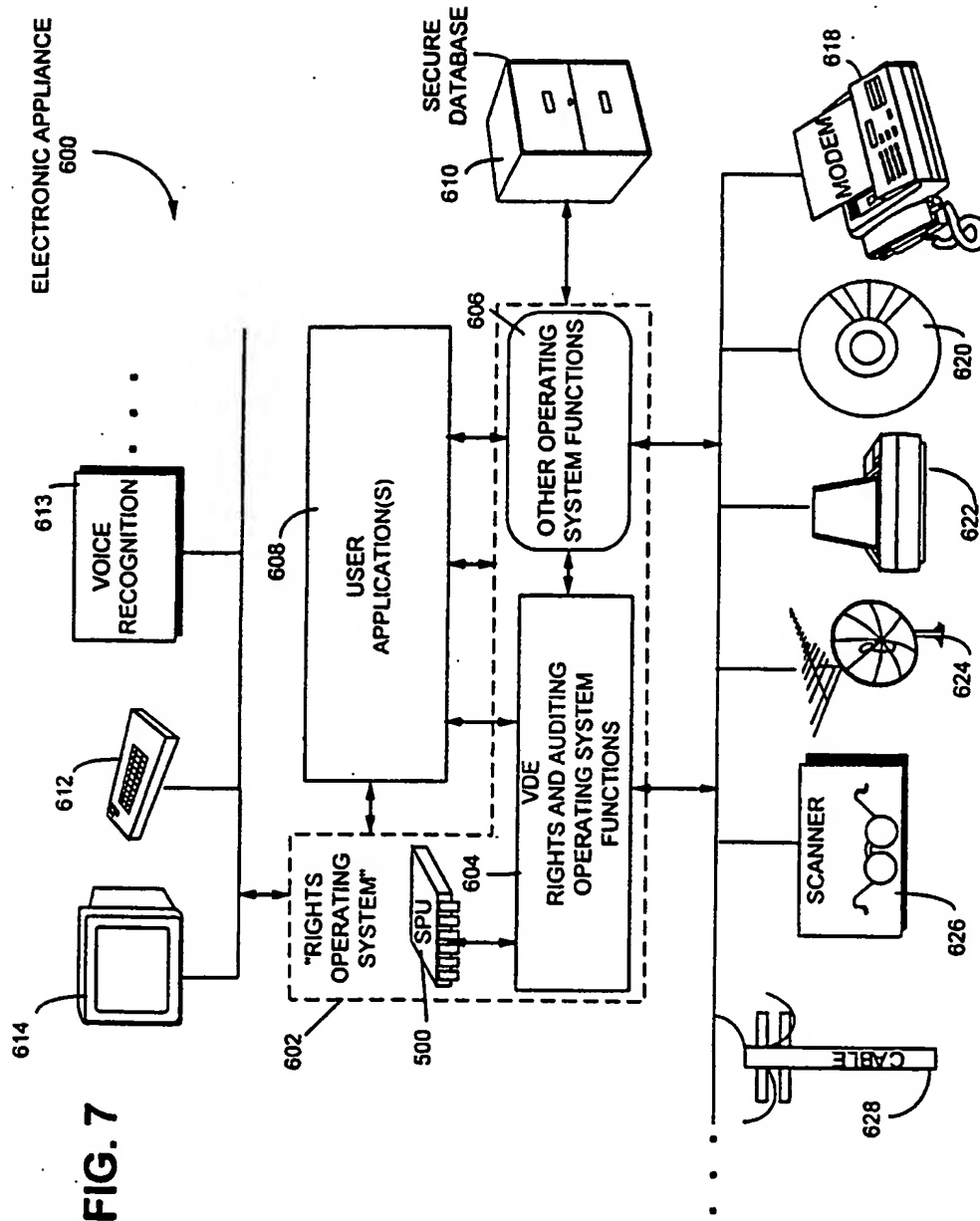


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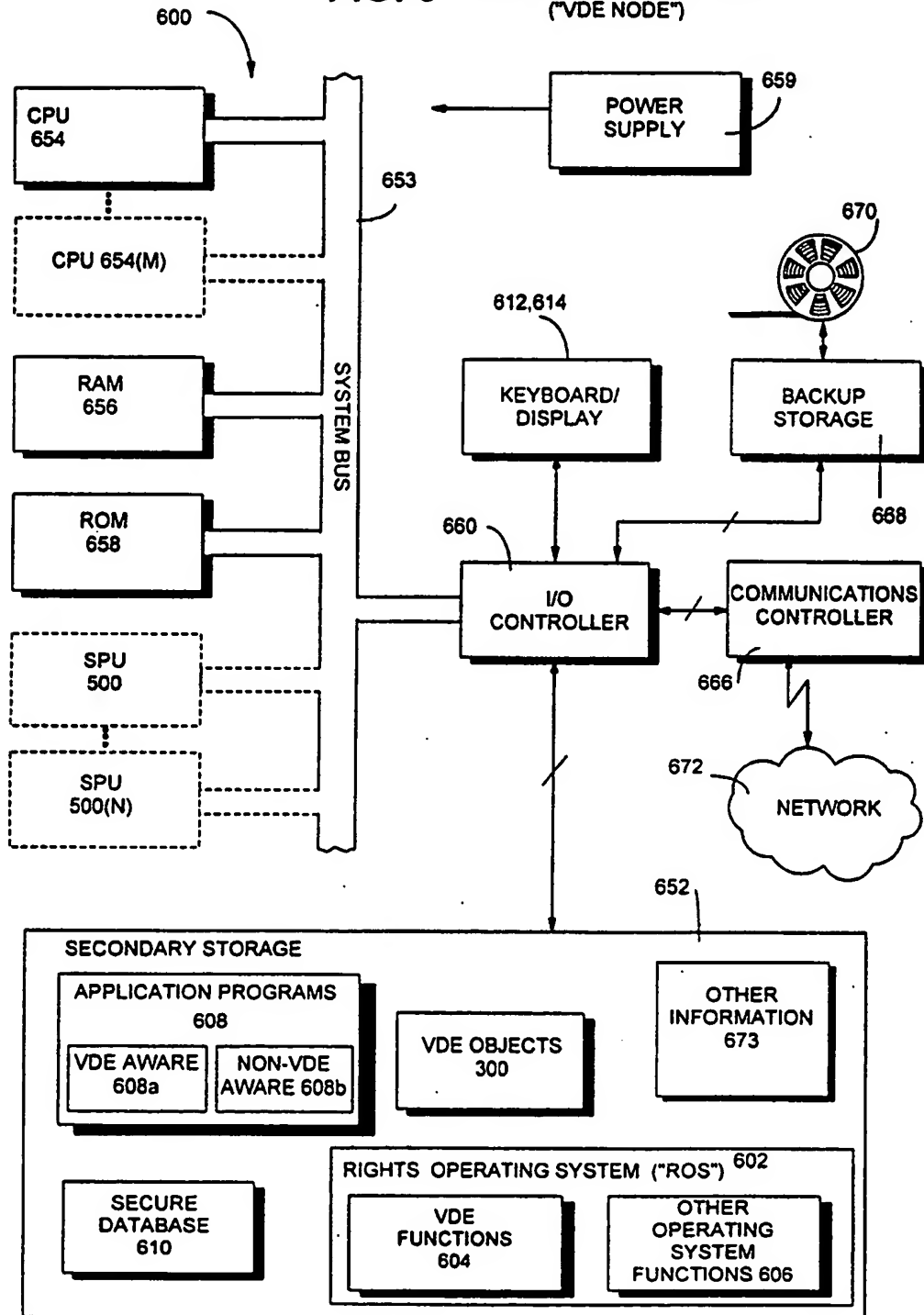
FIG. 6



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FIG. 8 ELECTRONIC APPLIANCE 600
("VDE NODE")

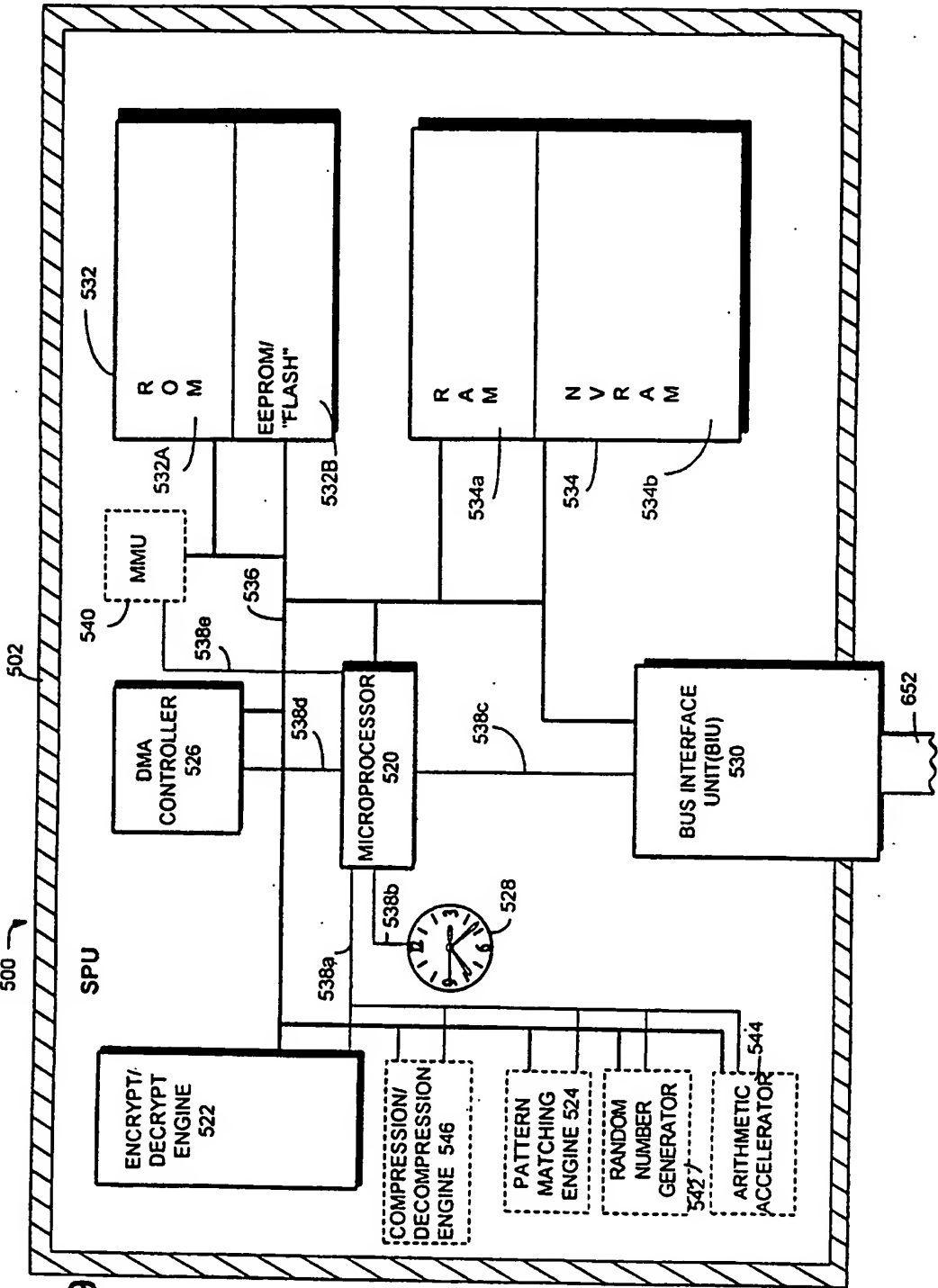


FIG. 9

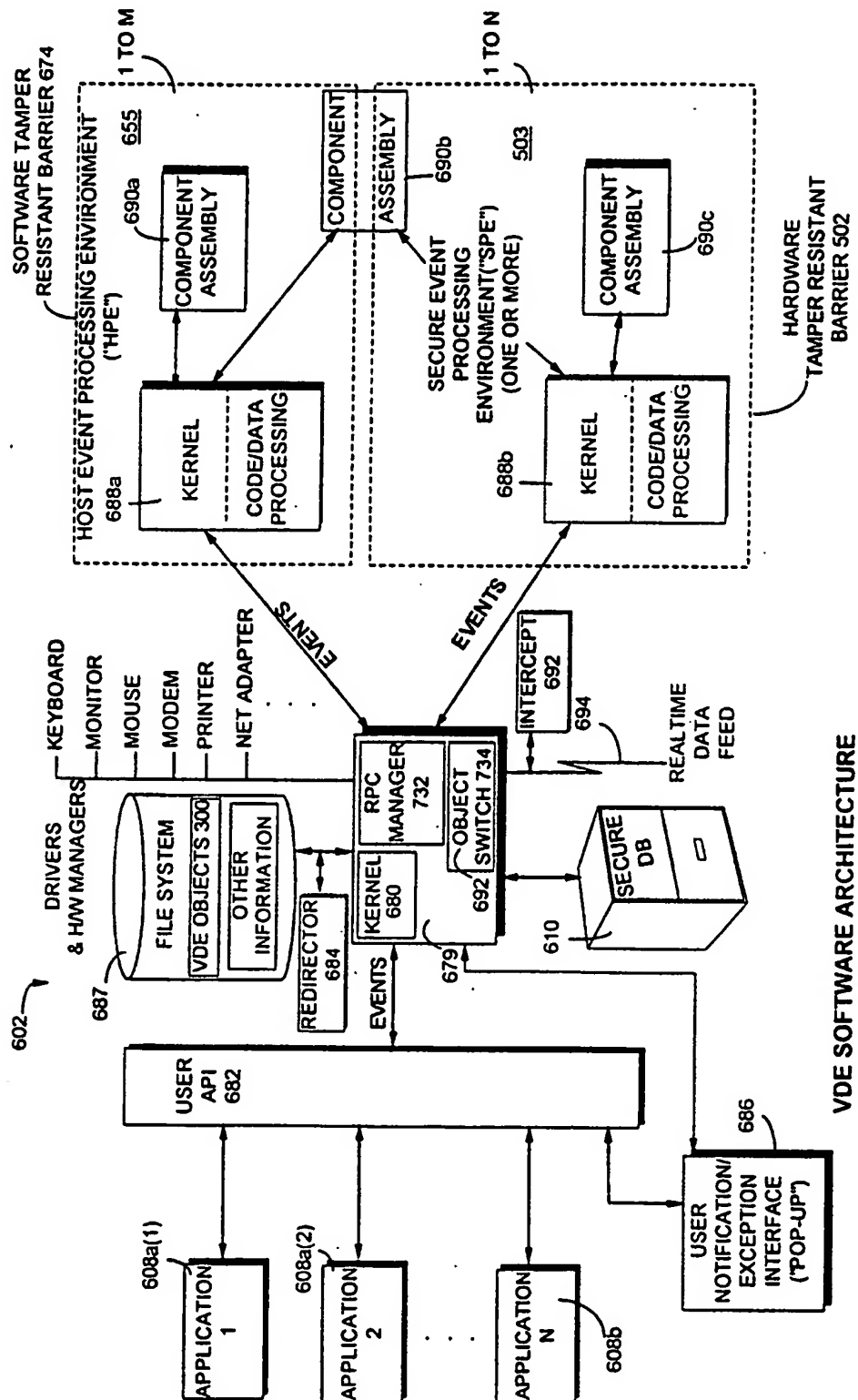
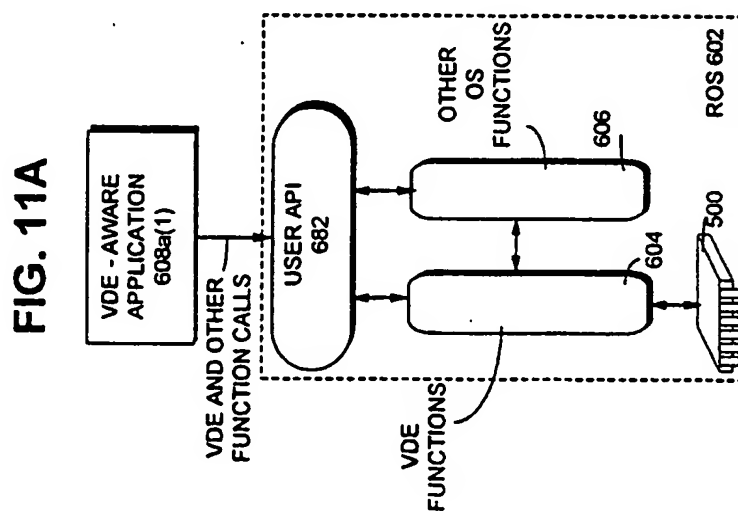
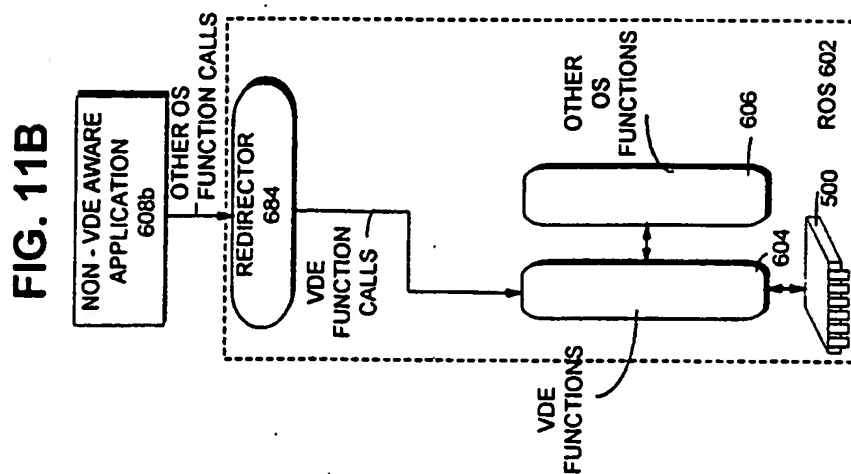
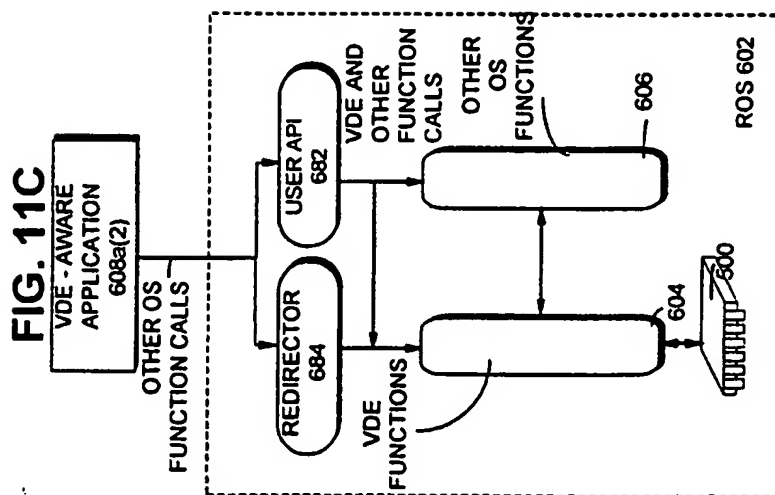
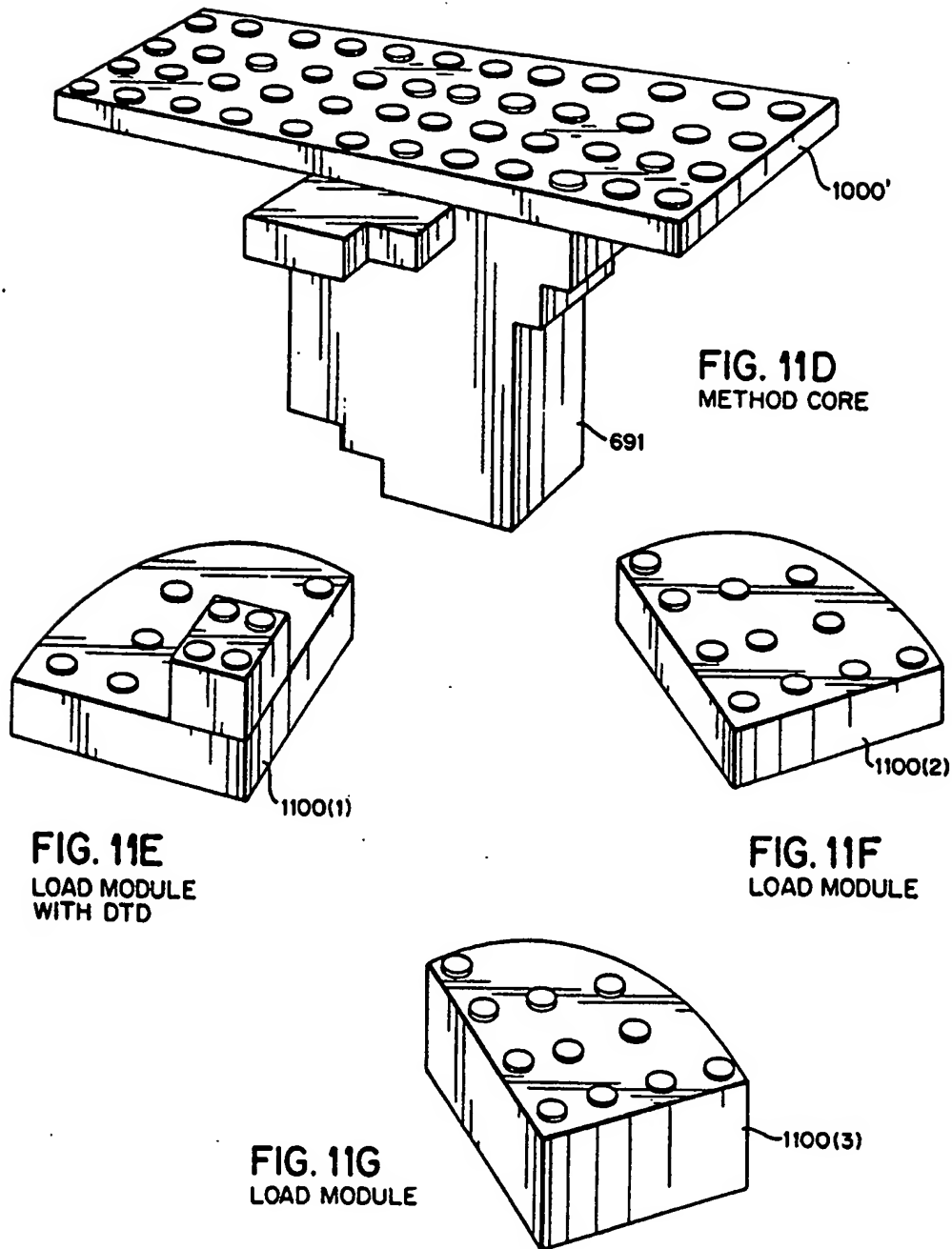


FIG. 10



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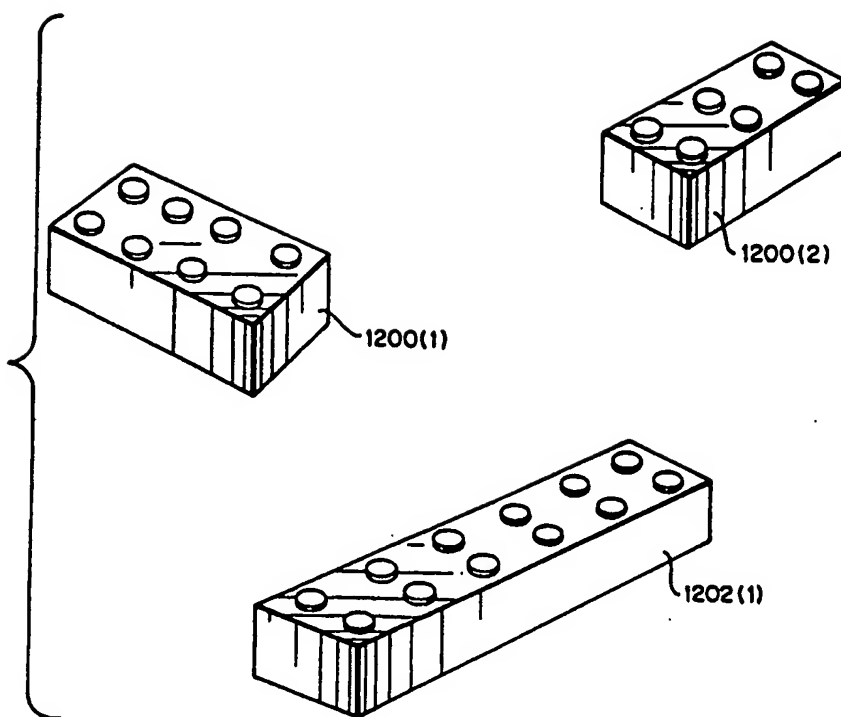
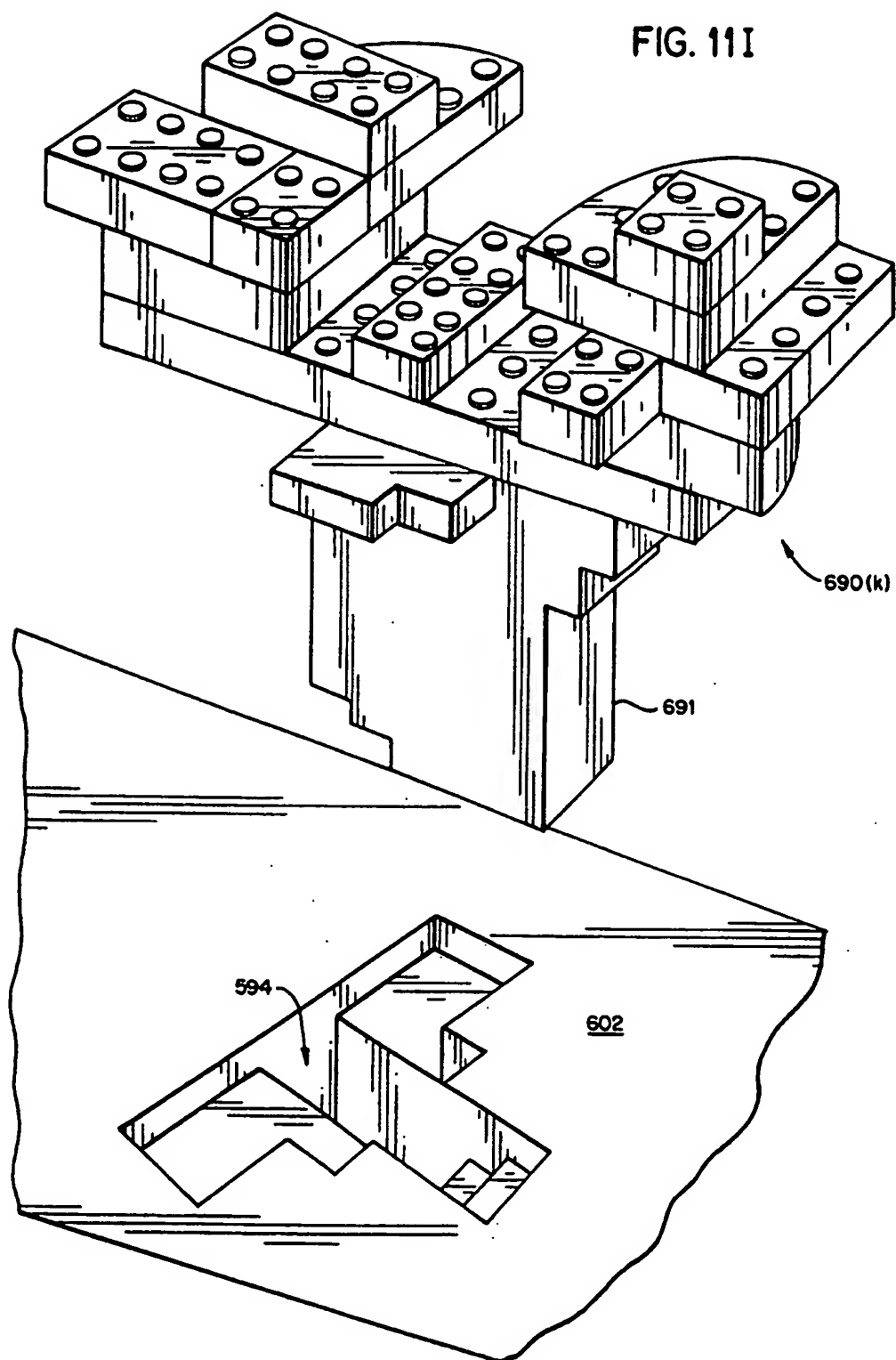


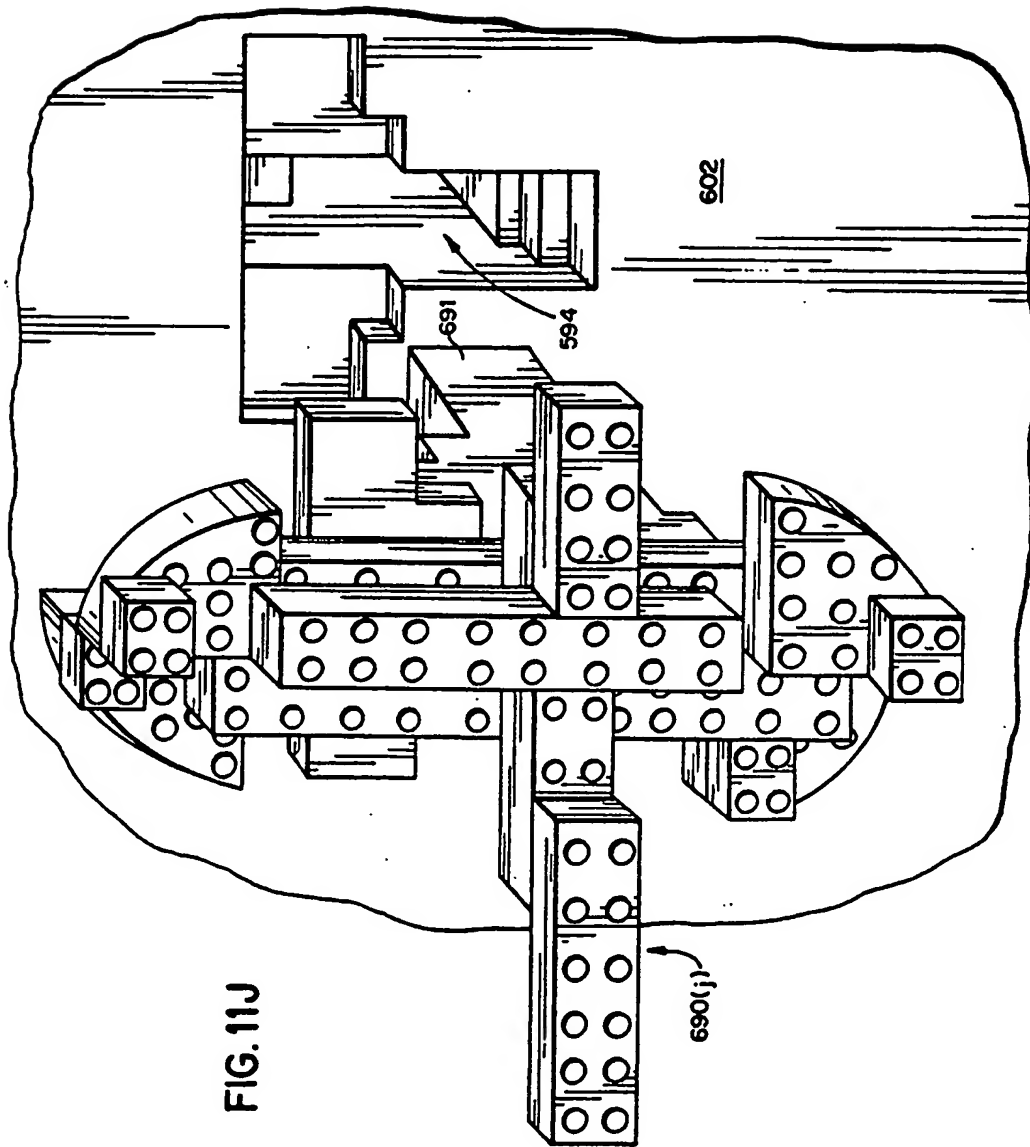
FIG. 11H
DATA STRUCTURES

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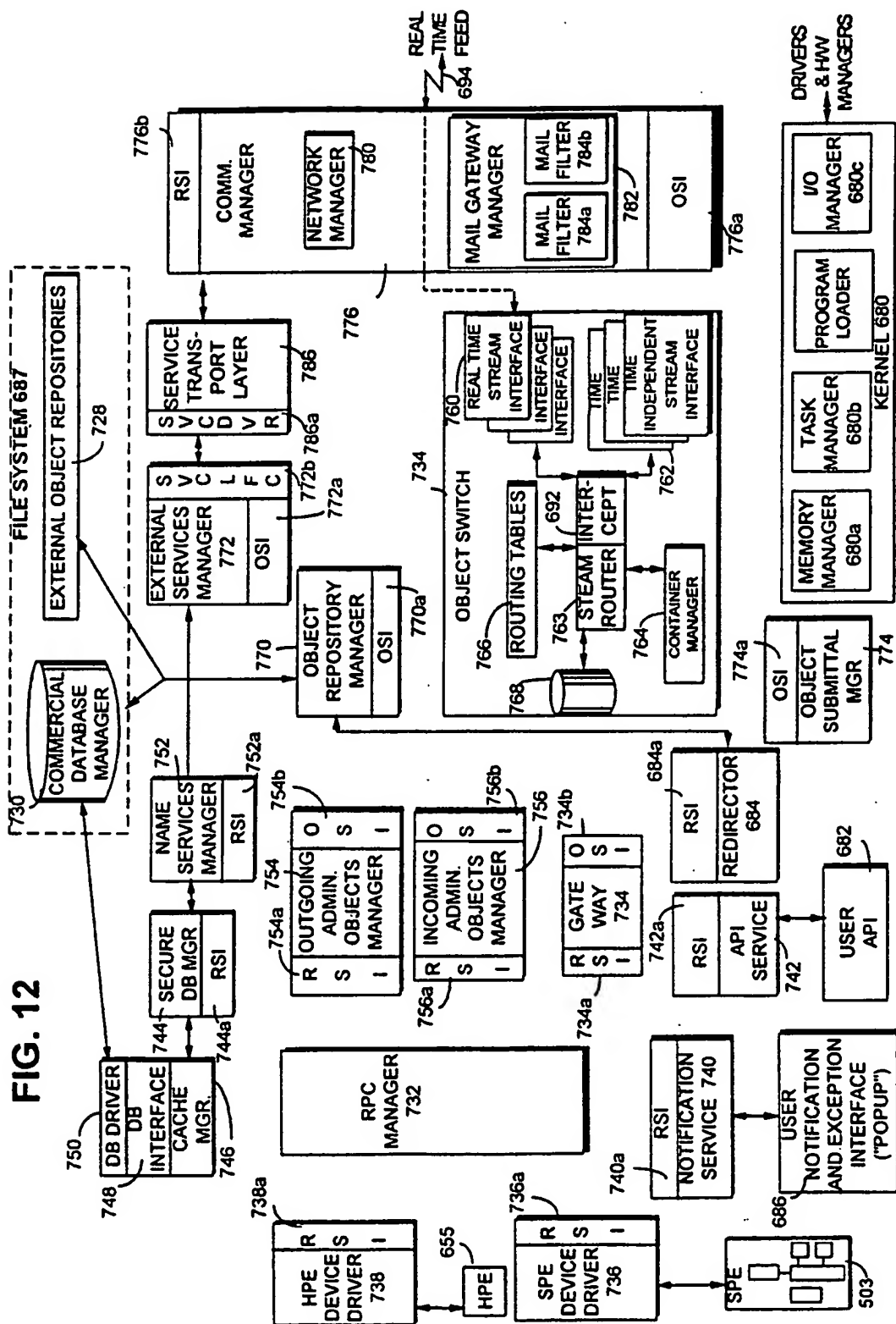
FIG. 111



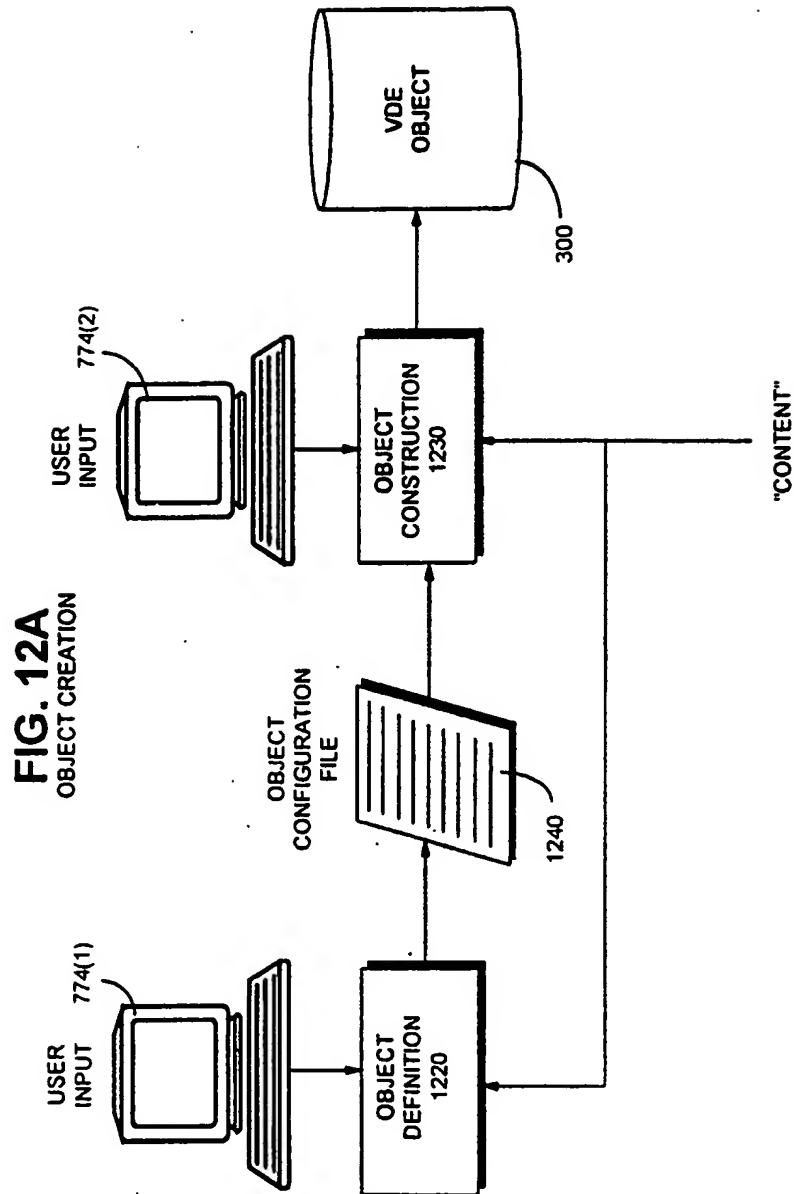
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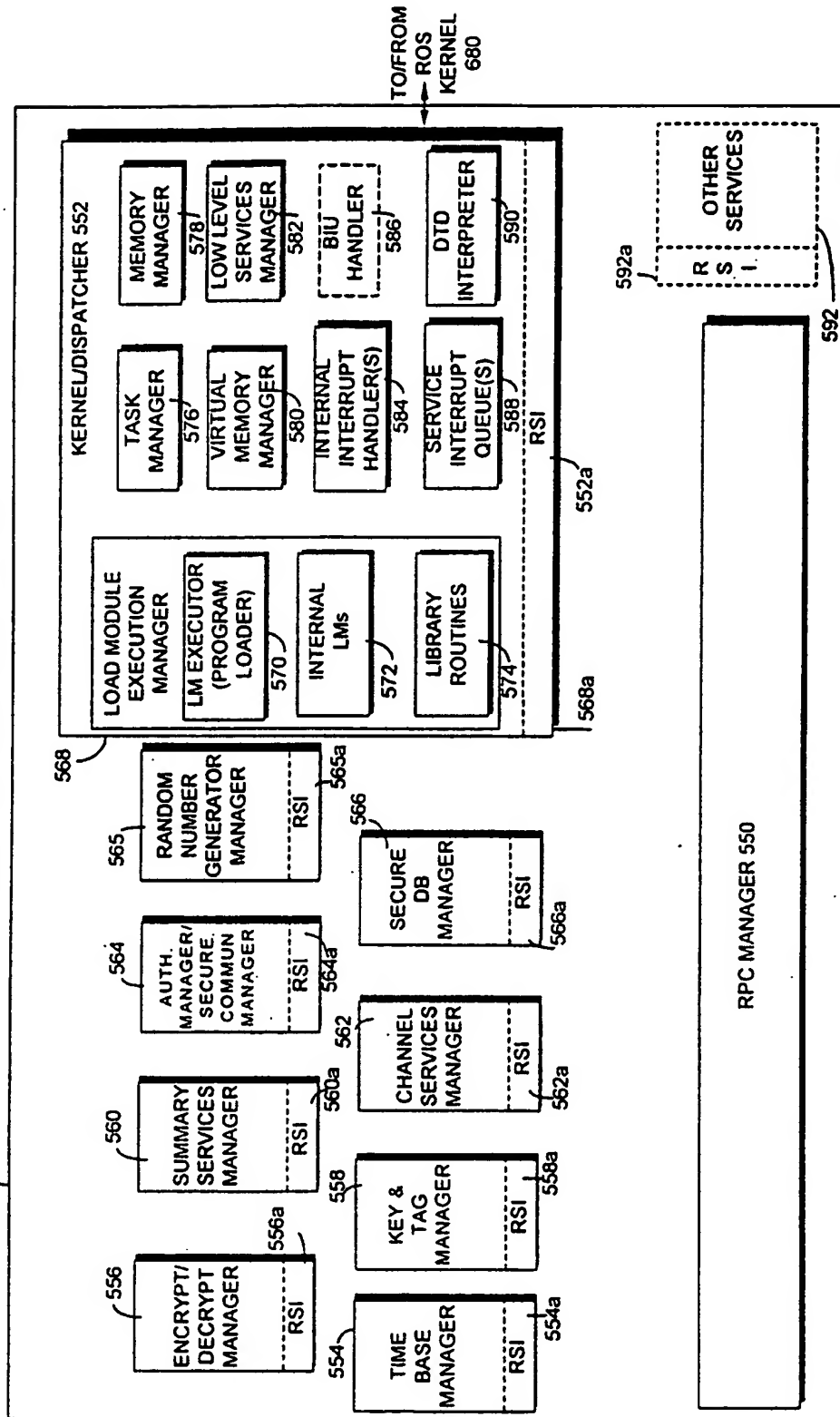
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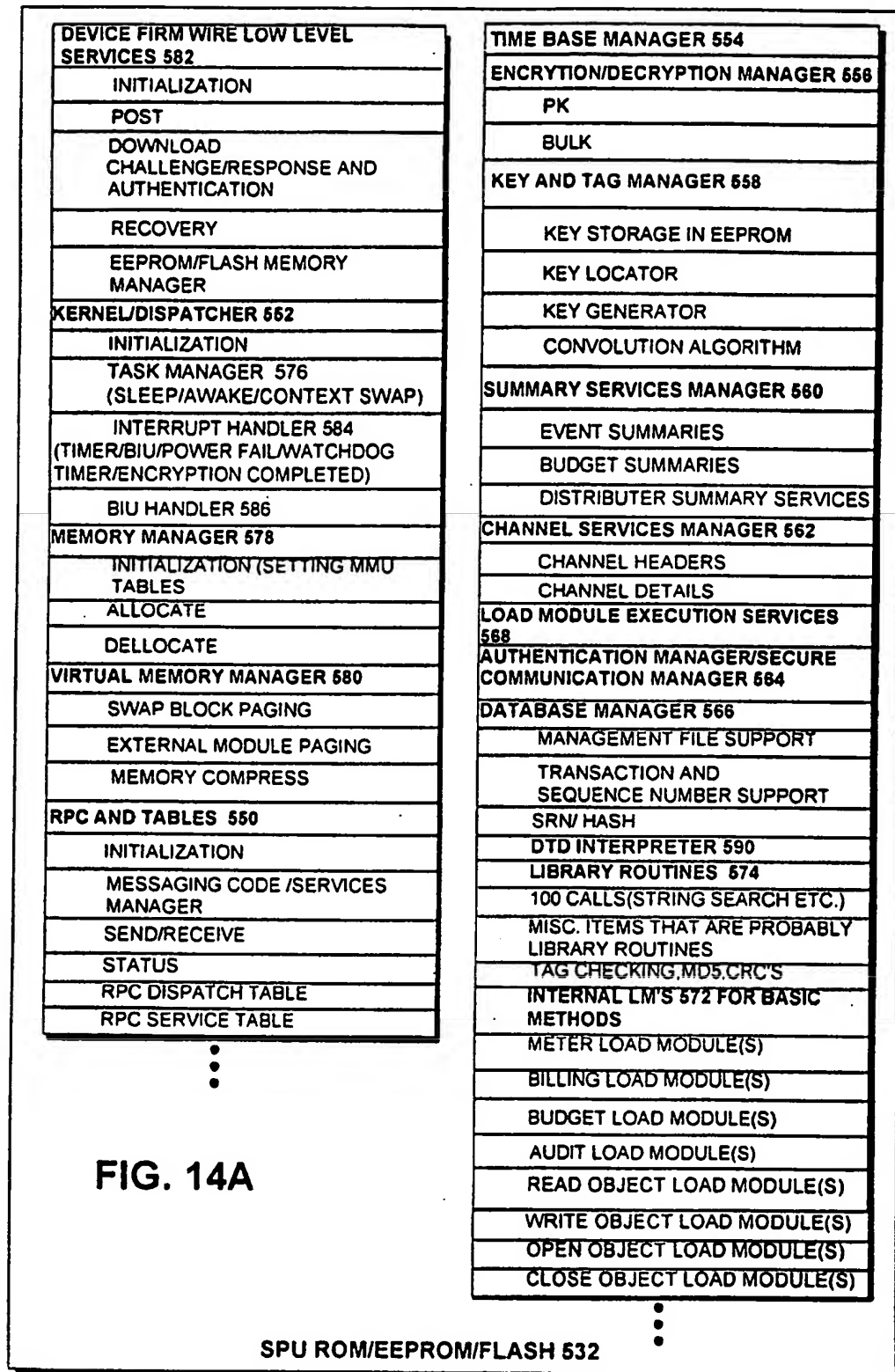
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FIG. 13

PROTECTED PROCESSING ENVIRONMENT 650

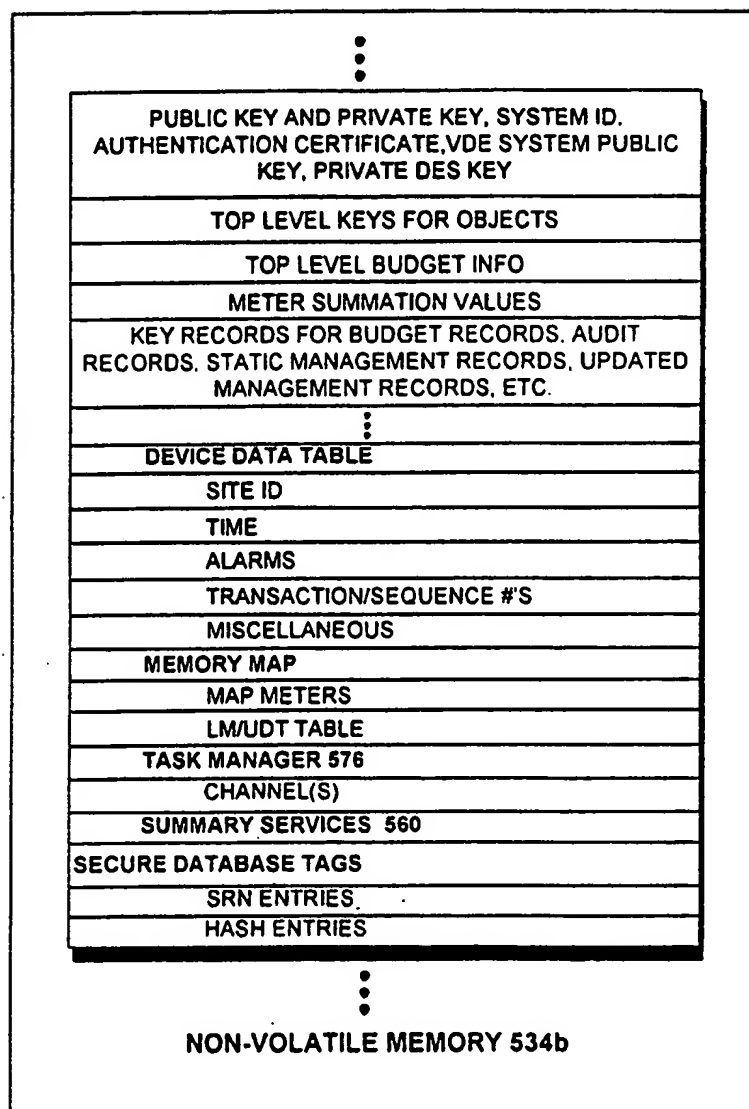


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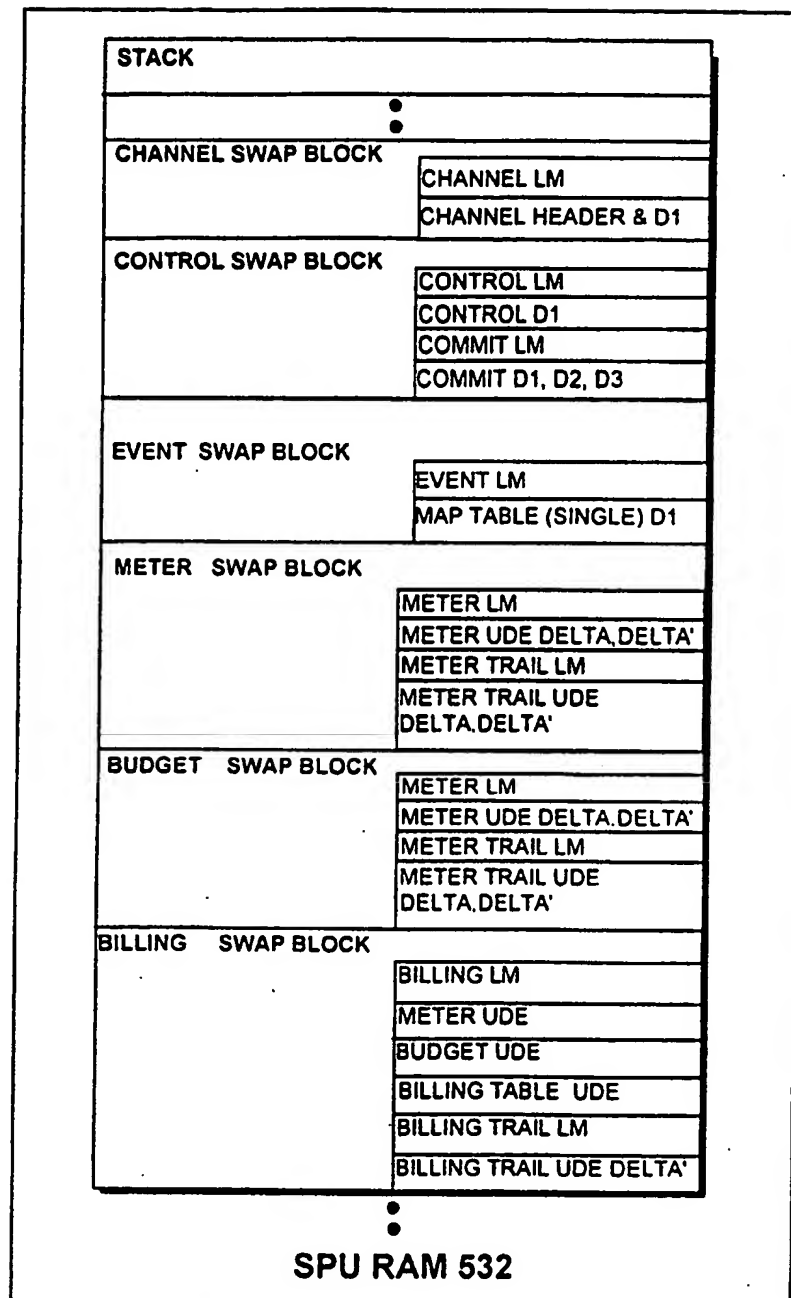
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FIG. 14B



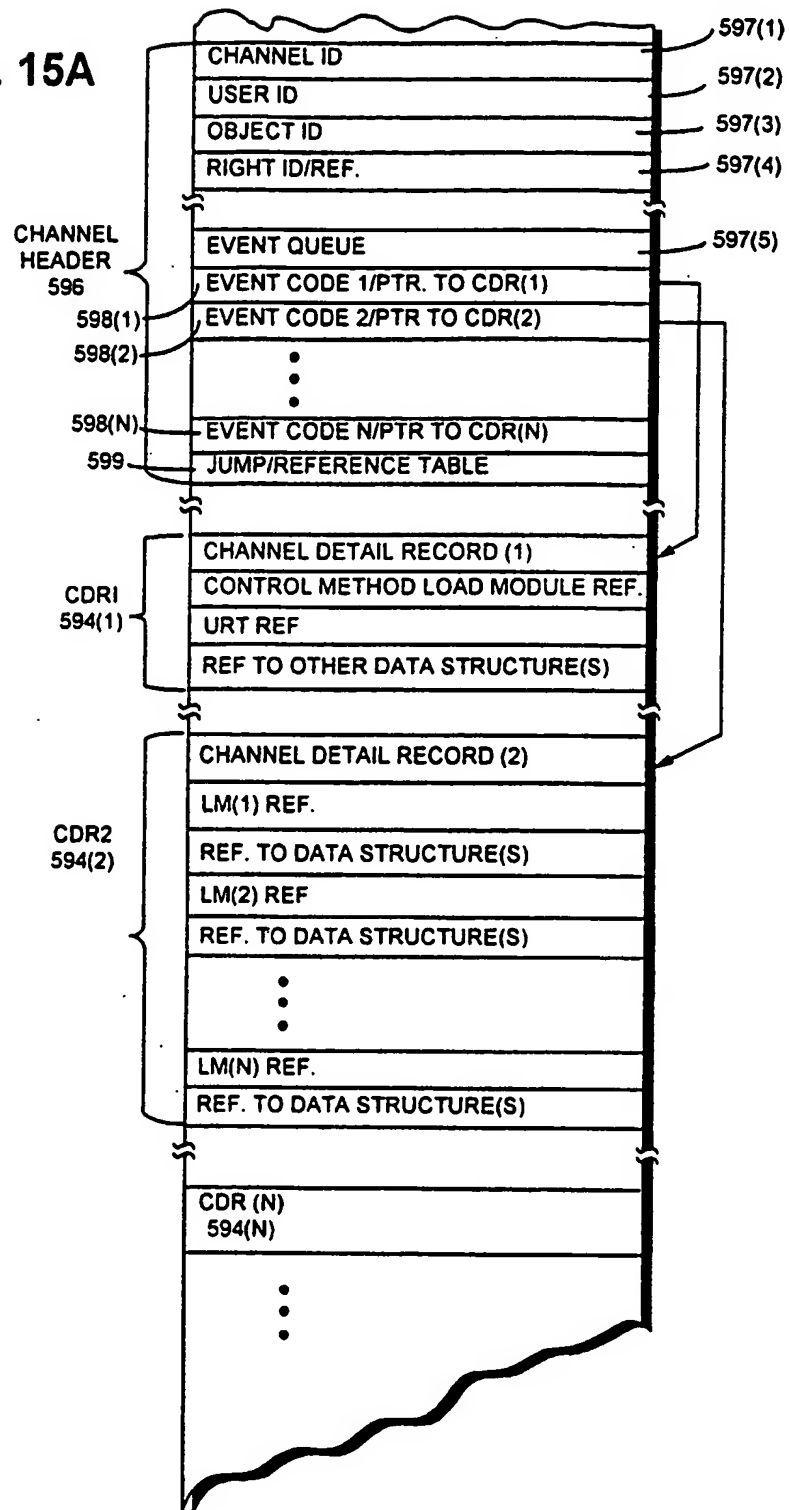
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FIG. 14C



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FIG. 15A



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FIG. 15B

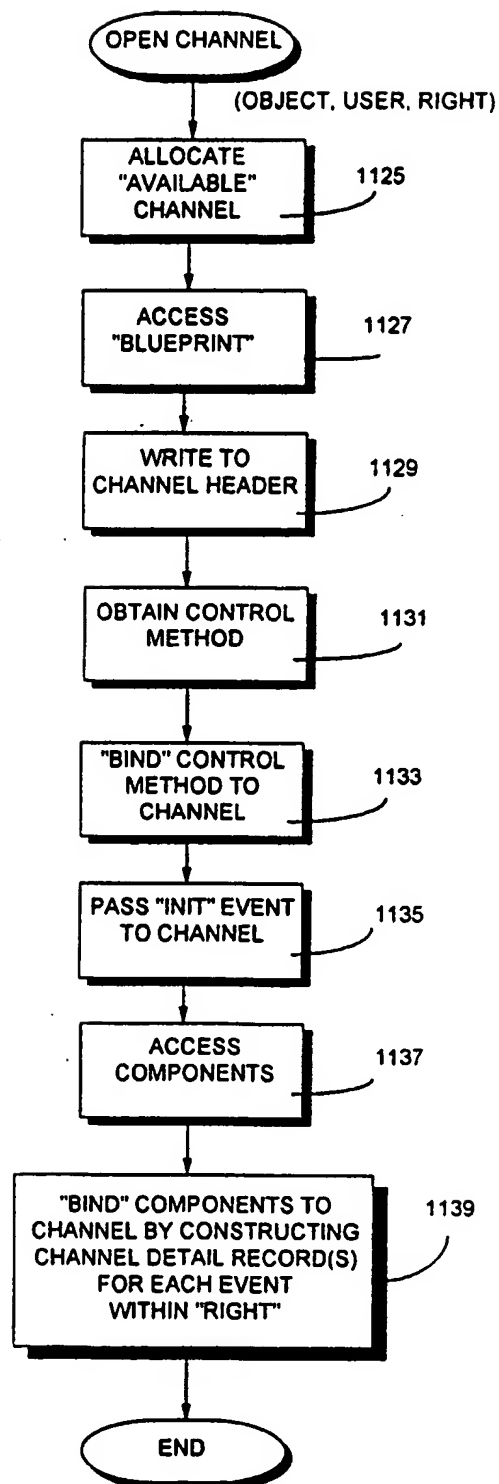
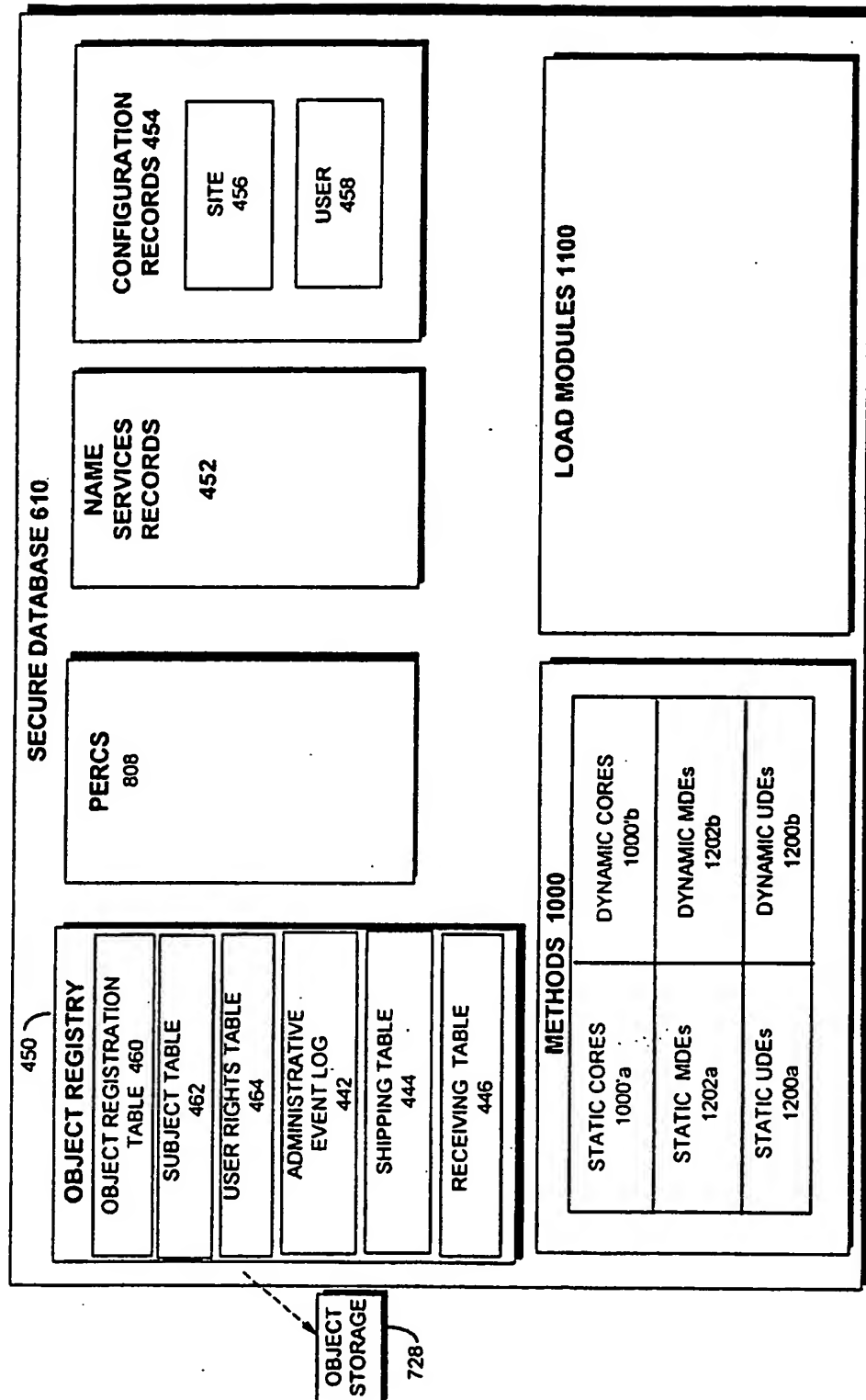
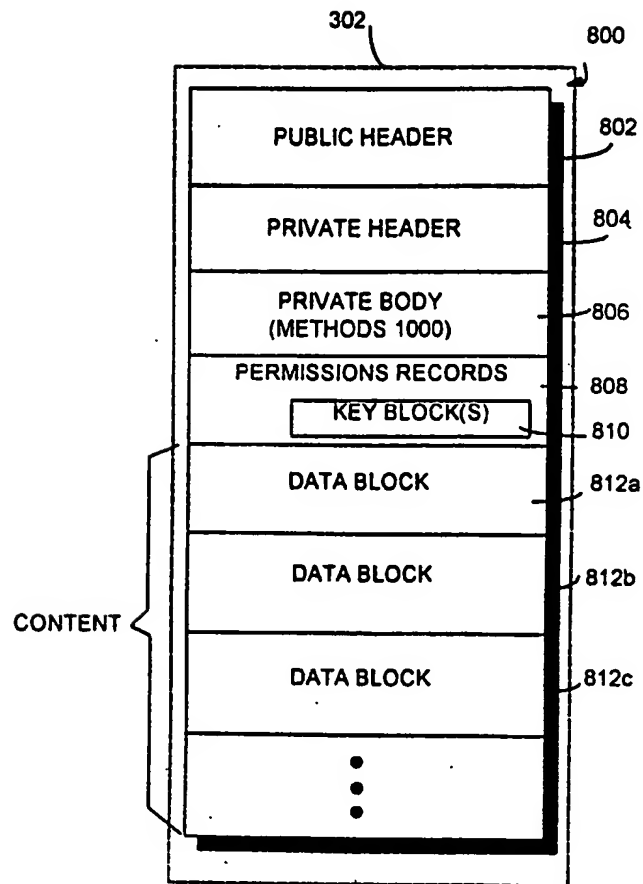


FIG. 16



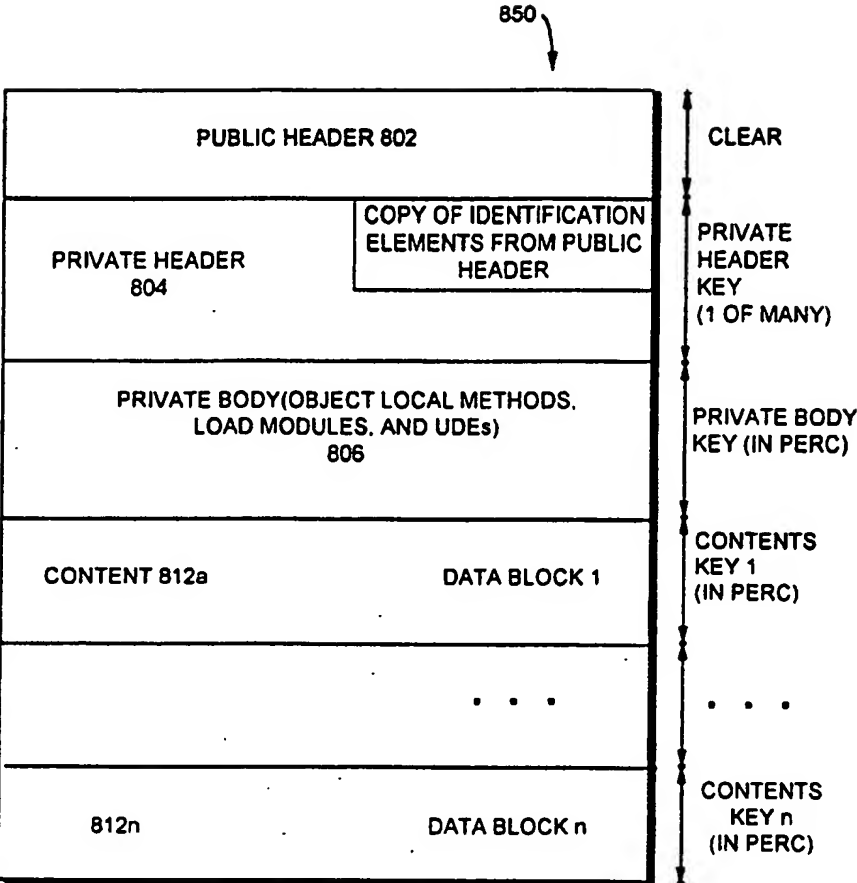
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LOGICAL OBJECT

FIG. 17

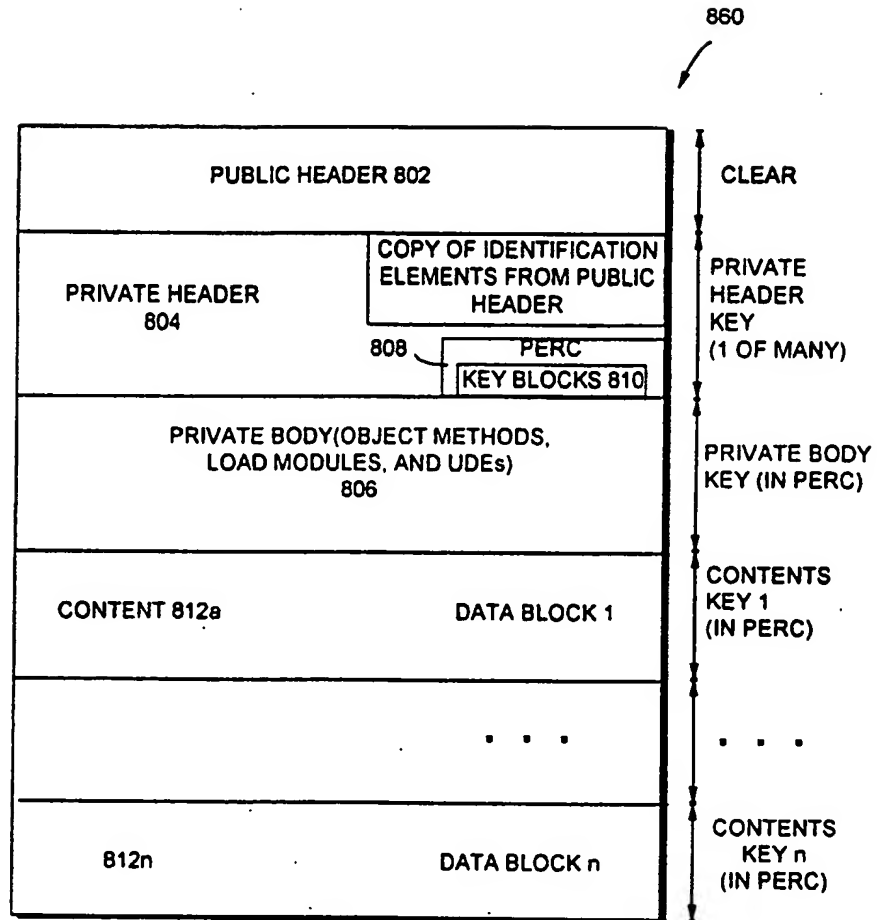
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STATIONARY OBJECT

FIG. 18

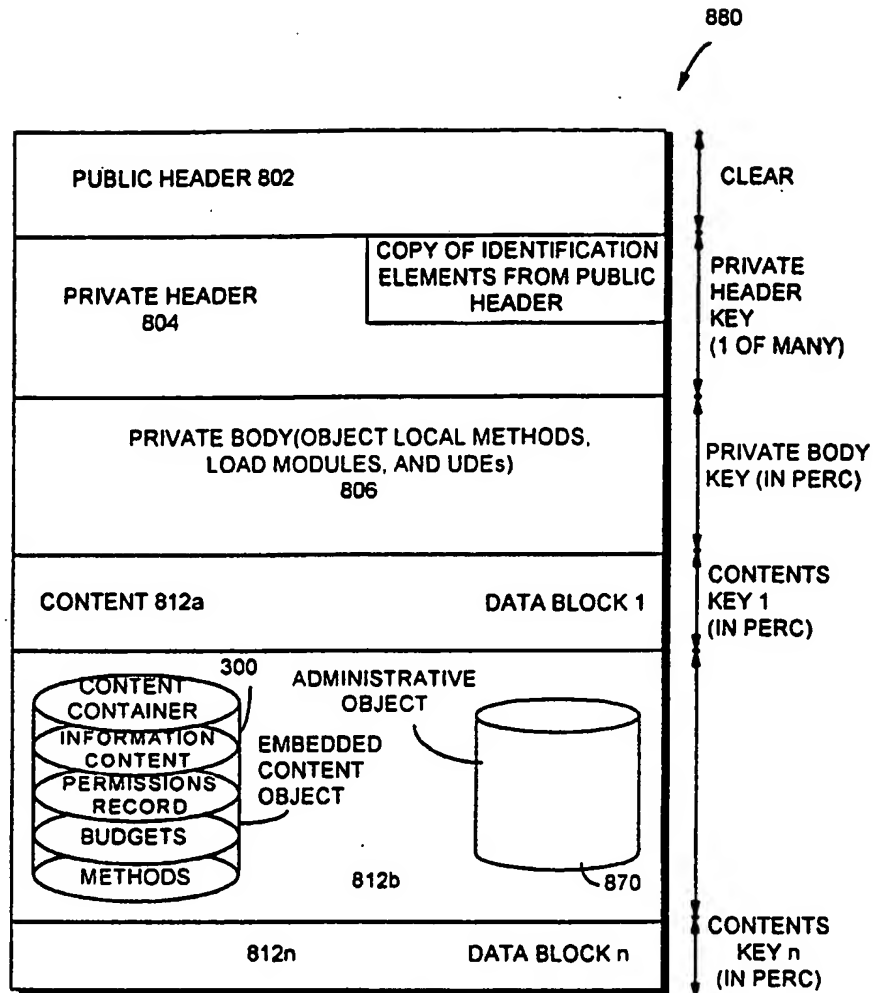
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TRAVELING OBJECT

FIG. 19

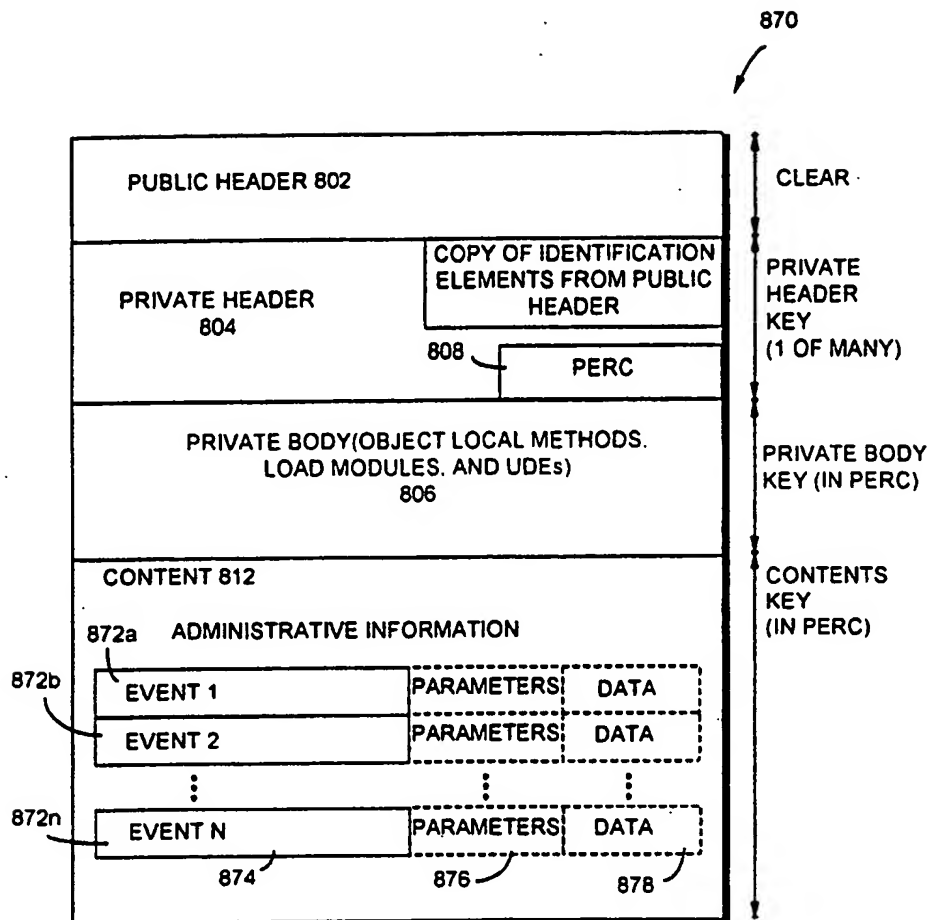
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CONTENT OBJECT

FIG. 20

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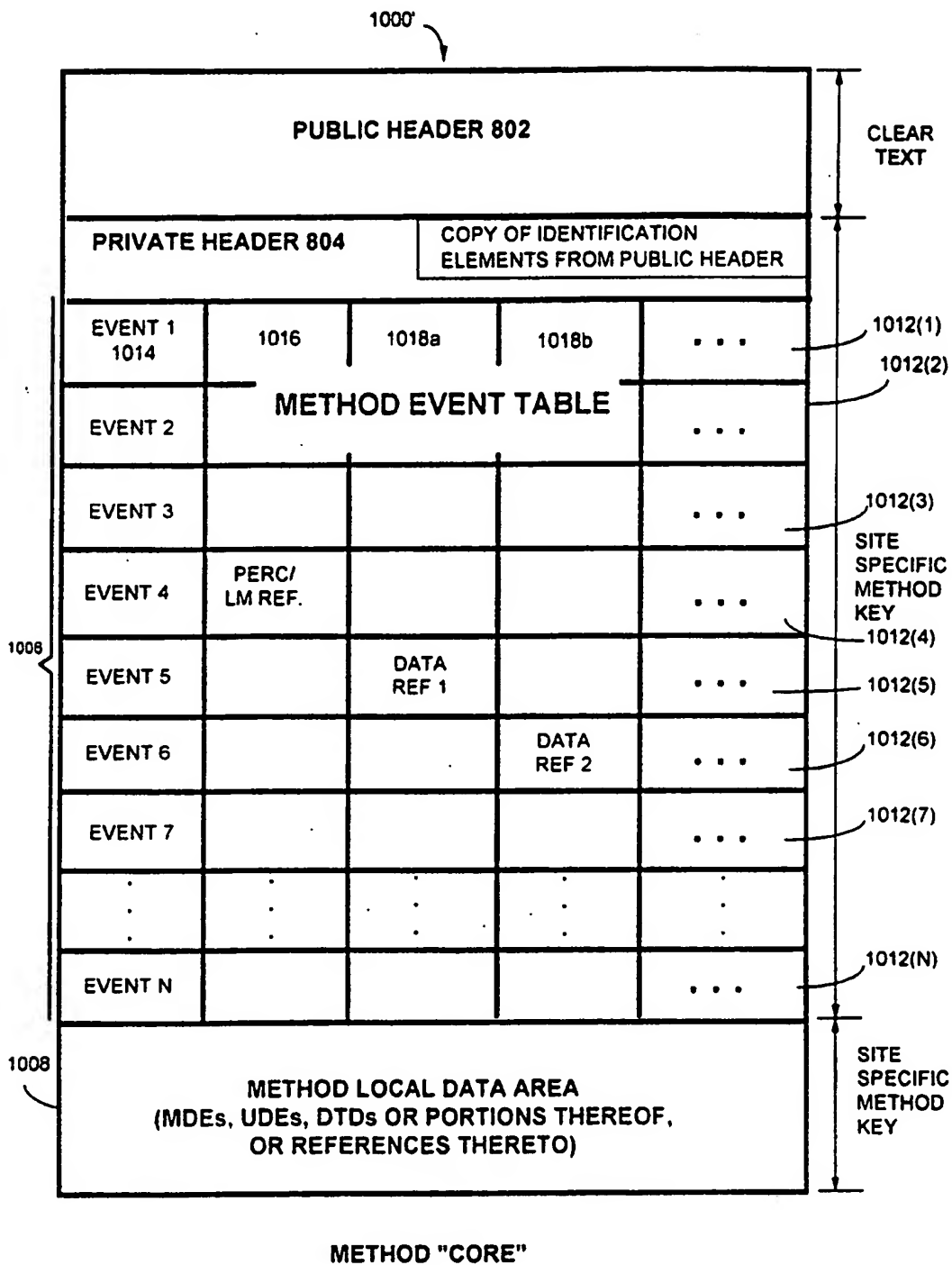


ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECT

FIG. 21

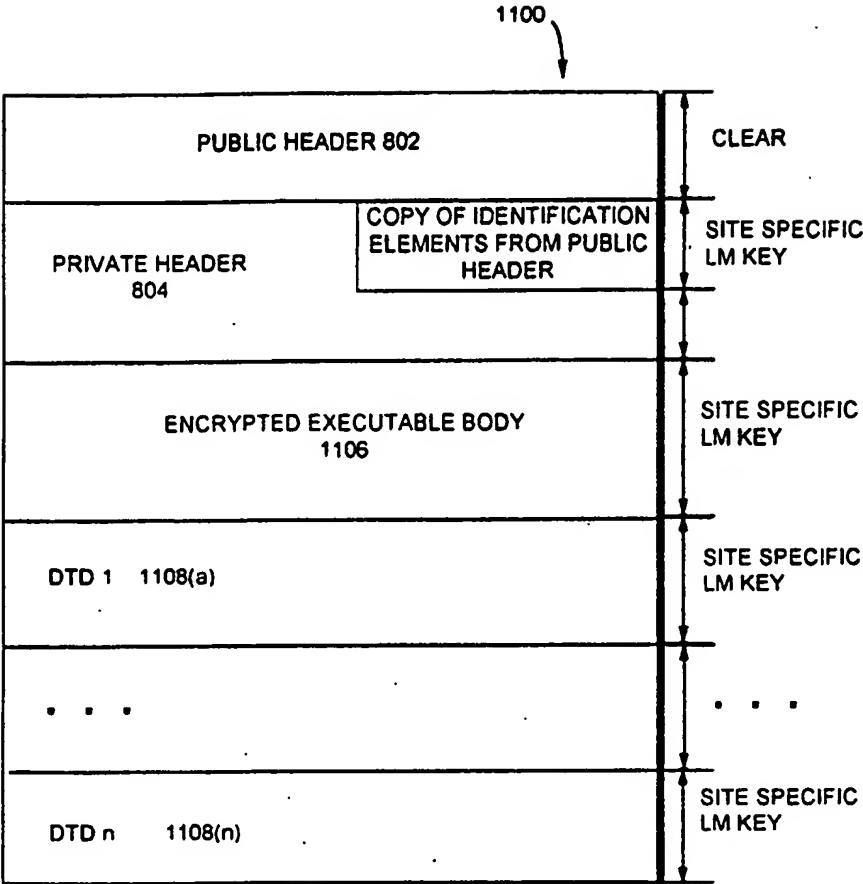
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FIG. 22



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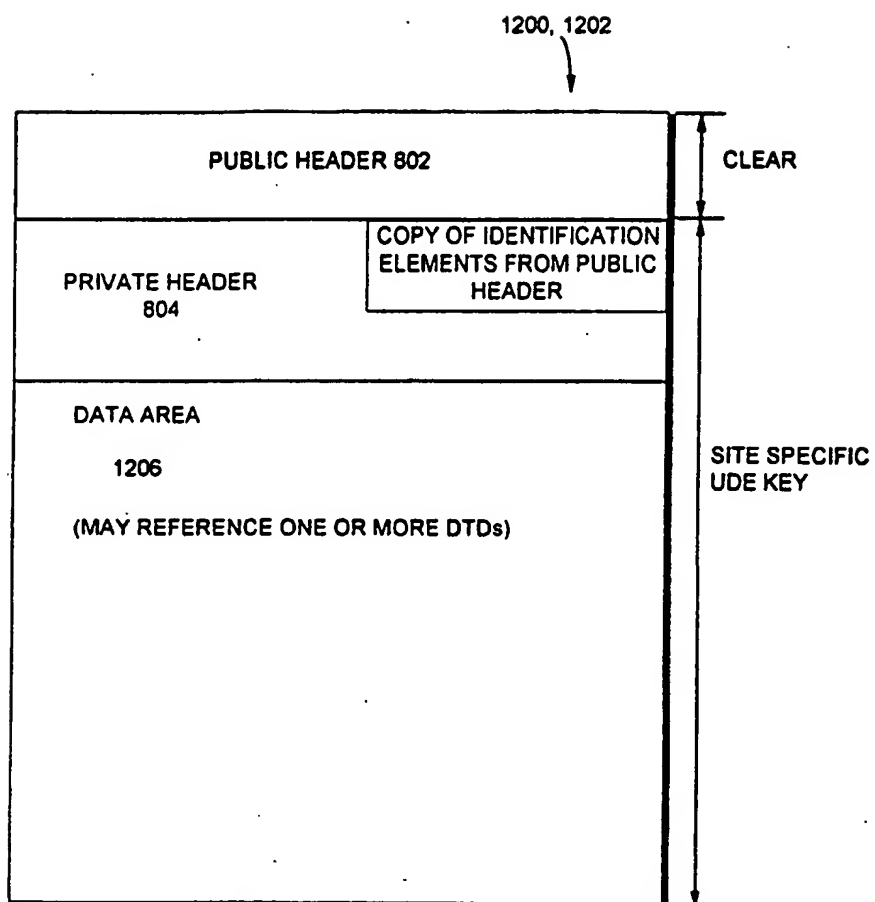
FIG. 23



LOAD MODULE

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FIG. 24



UDE (MDE)

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FIG. 25A

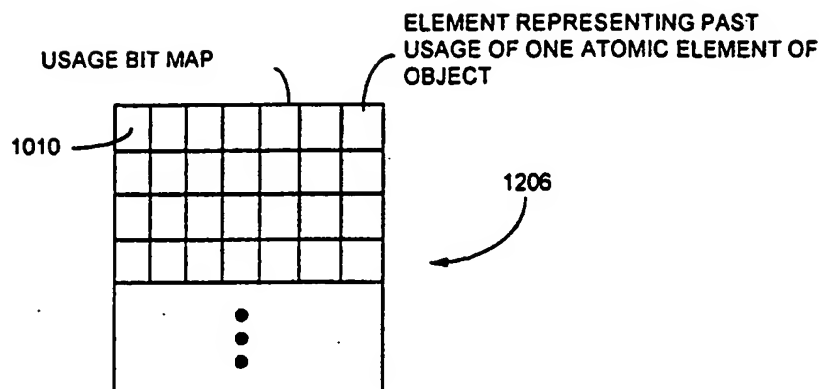
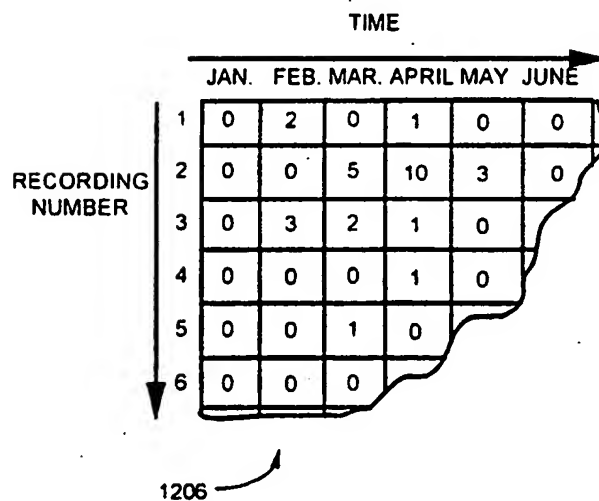
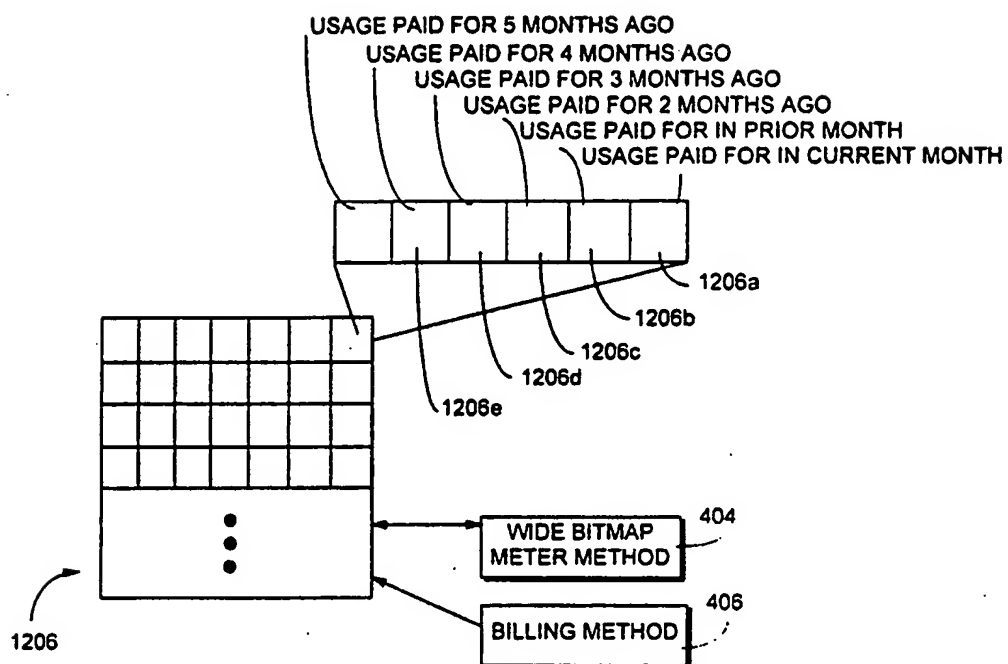


FIG. 25B



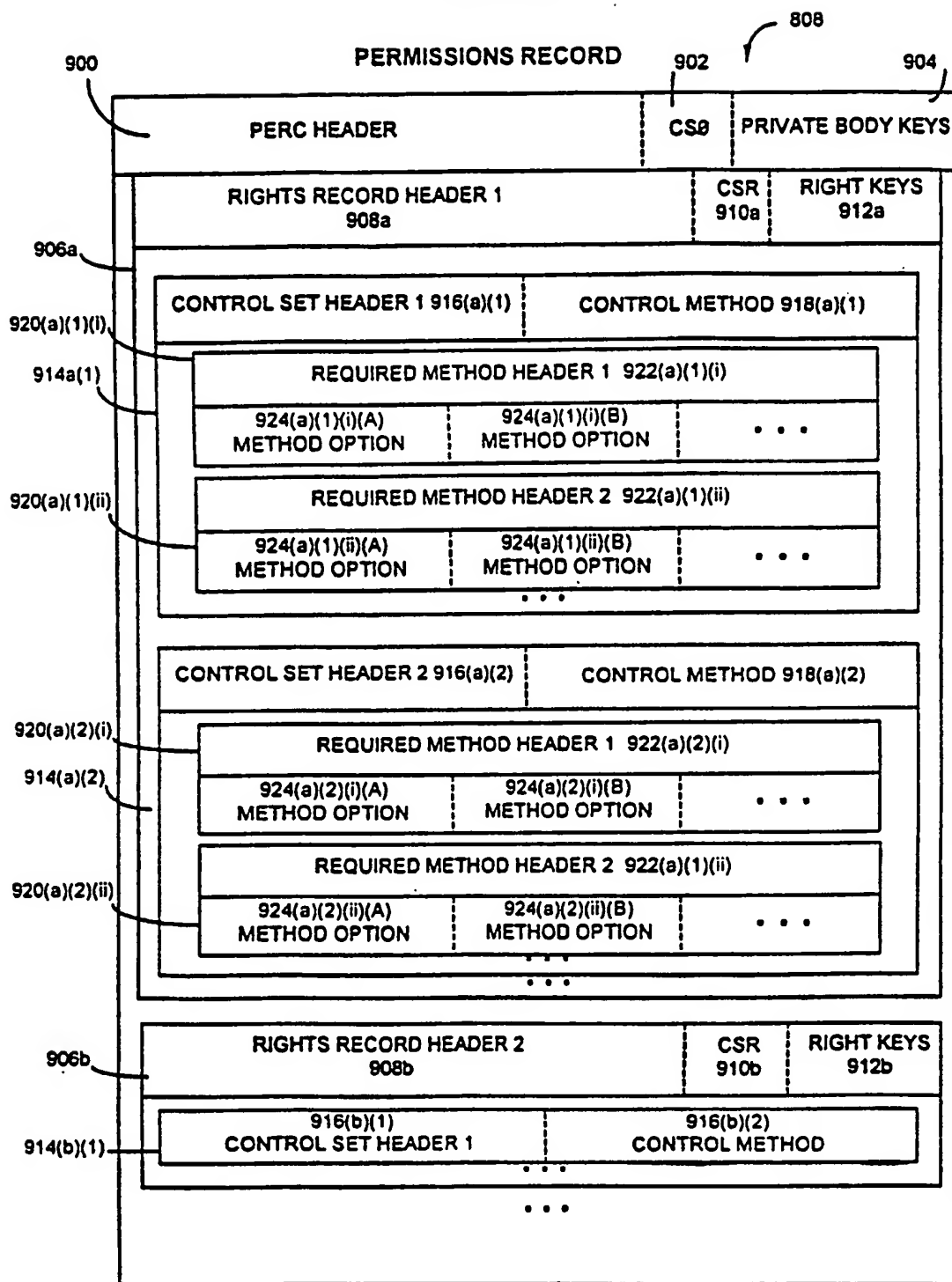
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FIG. 25C



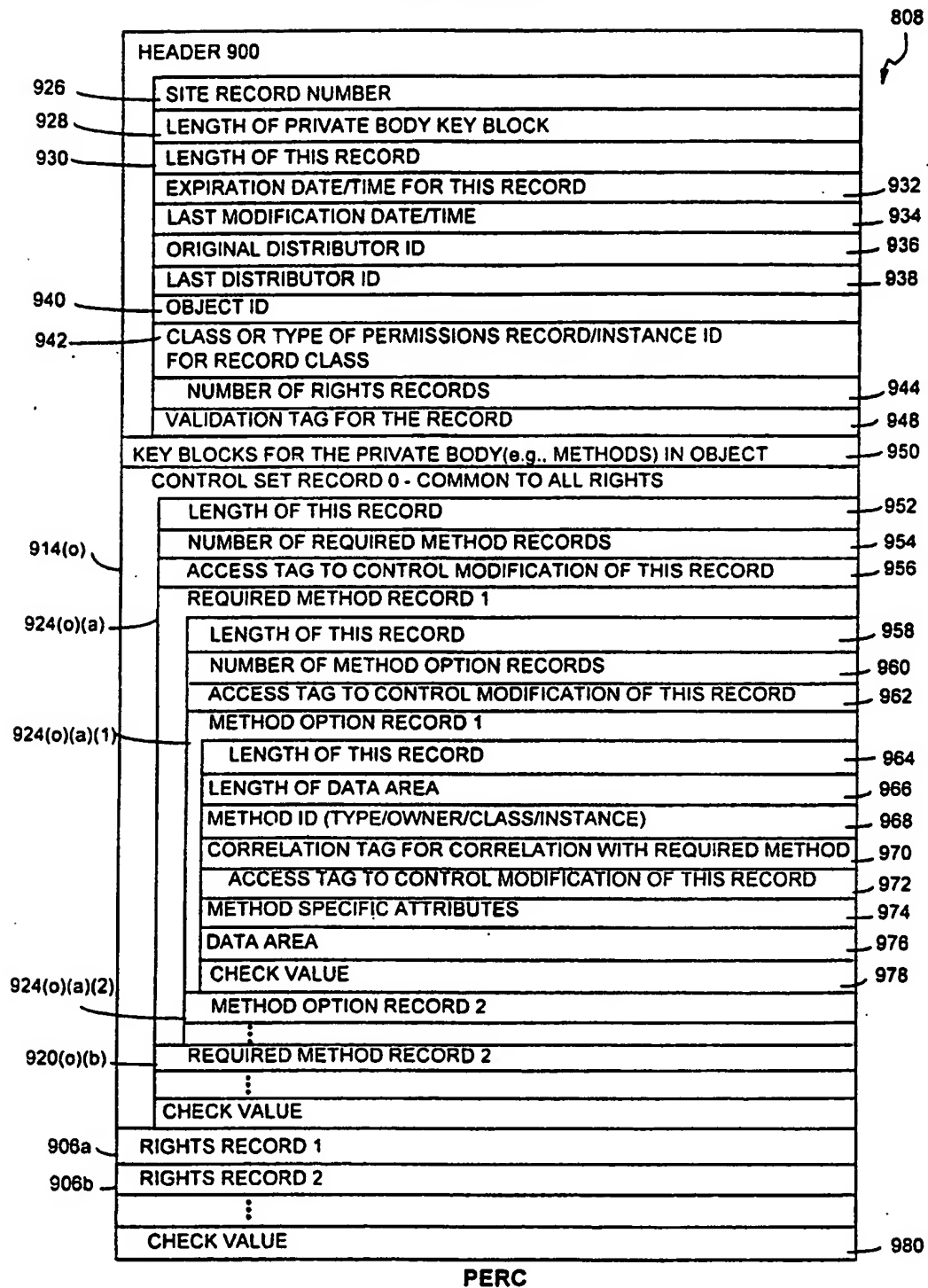
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FIG. 26



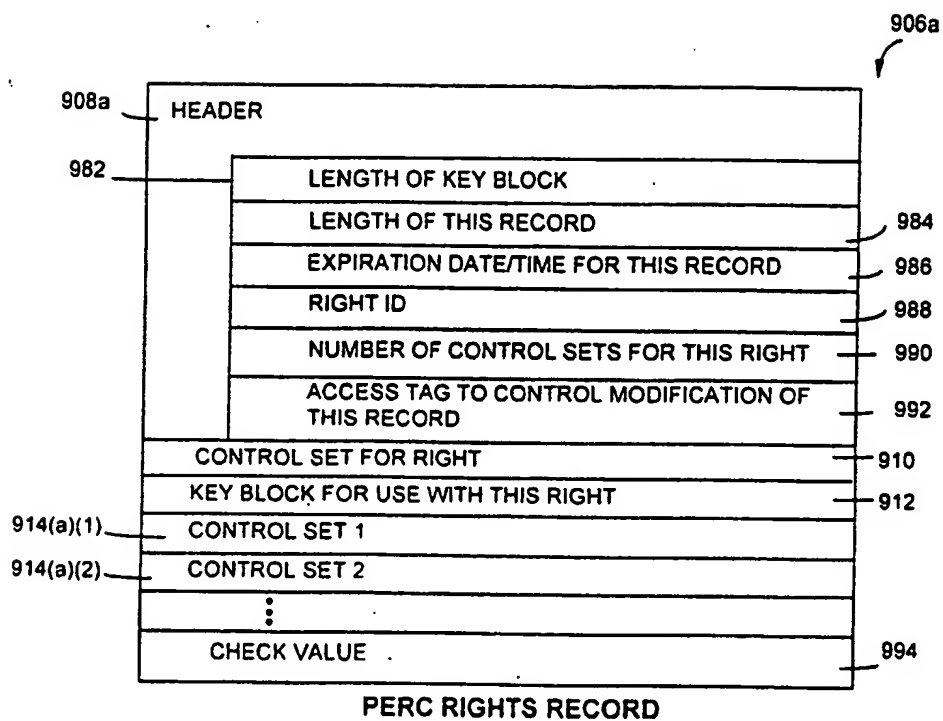
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FIG. 26A



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FIG. 26B



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FIG. 27
SHIPPING TABLE

HEADER 444A	444A(1)		SITE RECORD NUMBER	444
			USER (GROUP) ID	444A(2)
			REF. TO "FIRST" COMPLETED OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD	444A(3)
			REF. TO "LAST" COMPLETED OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD	444A(4)
			REF. TO "FIRST" SCHEDULED OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD	444A(5)
			REF. TO "LAST" SCHEDULED OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD	444A(6)
			VALIDATION TAG FROM NAME SERVICES RECORD	444A(7)
			VALIDATION TAG FOR "FIRST" OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD(S)	444A(8)
			CHECK VALUE	444A(9)
SHIPPING RECORD 445(1)			SITE RECORD NUMBER	445(1)(A)
			FIRST DATE/TIME FOR SCHEDULED SHIPMENT	445(1)(B)
			LAST DATE/TIME FOR SCHEDULED SHIPMENT	445(1)(C)
			ACTUAL DATE/TIME OF COMPLETED SHIPMENT	445(1)(D)
			OBJECT ID OF ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECT (TO BE) SHIPPED	445(1)(E)
			REF. TO ENTRY IN ADMINISTRATIVE EVENT LOG	445(1)(F)
			REF. TO NAME SERVICES RECORD NAMING RECIPIENT	445(1)(G)
			PURPOSE OF SHIPMENT	445(1)(H)
			STATUS OF SHIPMENT	445(1)(I)
			REF TO "PREVIOUS" OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD	445(1)(J)
			REF. TO "NEXT" OUTGOING SHIPPING RECORD	445(1)(K)
			VALIDATION TAG FROM HEADER	445(1)(L)
			VALIDATION TAG TO ADMINISTRATIVE EVENT LOG	445(1)(M)
			VALIDATION TAG TO NAME SERVICES RECORD	445(1)(N)
			VALIDATION TAG FROM PREVIOUS RECORD	445(1)(O)
			VALIDATION TAG TO NEXT RECORD	445(1)(P)
			CHECK VALUE	445(1)(Q)
			⋮	
			SHIPPING RECORD N	445(1)(R)

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FIG. 28
RECEIVING TABLE

		446A(1)	
HEADER 446A	SITE RECORD NUMBER		446
	USER (GROUP) ID		446A(2)
	REF. TO "FIRST" COMPLETED INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD		446A(3)
	REF. TO "LAST" COMPLETED INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD		446A(4)
	REF. TO "FIRST" SCHEDULED INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD		446A(5)
	REF. TO "LAST" SCHEDULED INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD		446A(6)
	VALIDATION TAG FROM NAME SERVICES RECORD		446A(7)
	VALIDATION TAG FOR "FIRST" INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD(S)		446A(8)
	CHECK VALUE		446A(9)
RECEIVING RECORD 447(1)	SITE RECORD NUMBER		447(1)(A)
	FIRST DATE/TIME FOR SCHEDULED RECEPTION		447(1)(B)
	LAST DATE/TIME FOR SCHEDULED RECEPTION		447(1)(C)
	ACTUAL DATE/TIME OF COMPLETED RECEPTION		447(1)(D)
	OBJECT ID OF ADMINISTRATIVE OBJECT (TO BE) RECEIVED		447(1)(E)
	REF. TO ENTRY IN ADMINISTRATIVE EVENT LOG		447(1)(F)
	REF. TO NAME SERVICES RECORD NAMING SENDER		447(1)(G)
	PURPOSE OF RECEPTION		447(1)(H)
	STATUS OF RECEPTION		447(1)(I)
	REF. TO "PREVIOUS" INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD		447(1)(J)
	REF. TO "NEXT" INCOMING RECEIVING RECORD		447(1)(K)
	VALIDATION TAGS		447(1)(L)
	CHECK VALUE		447(1)(M)
	⋮		
	RECEIVING RECORD N		447(2)

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FIG. 29
ADMINISTRATIVE EVENT LOG

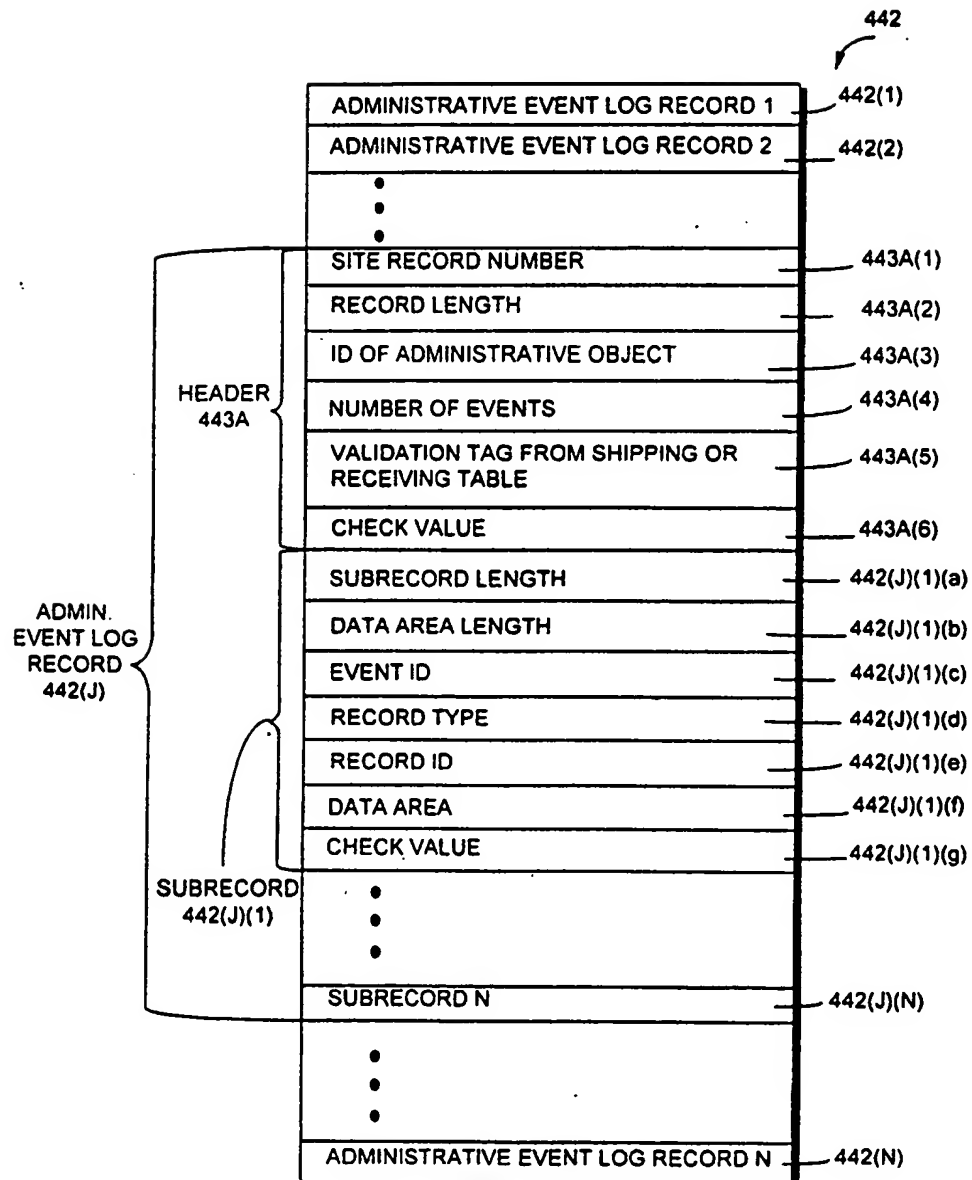
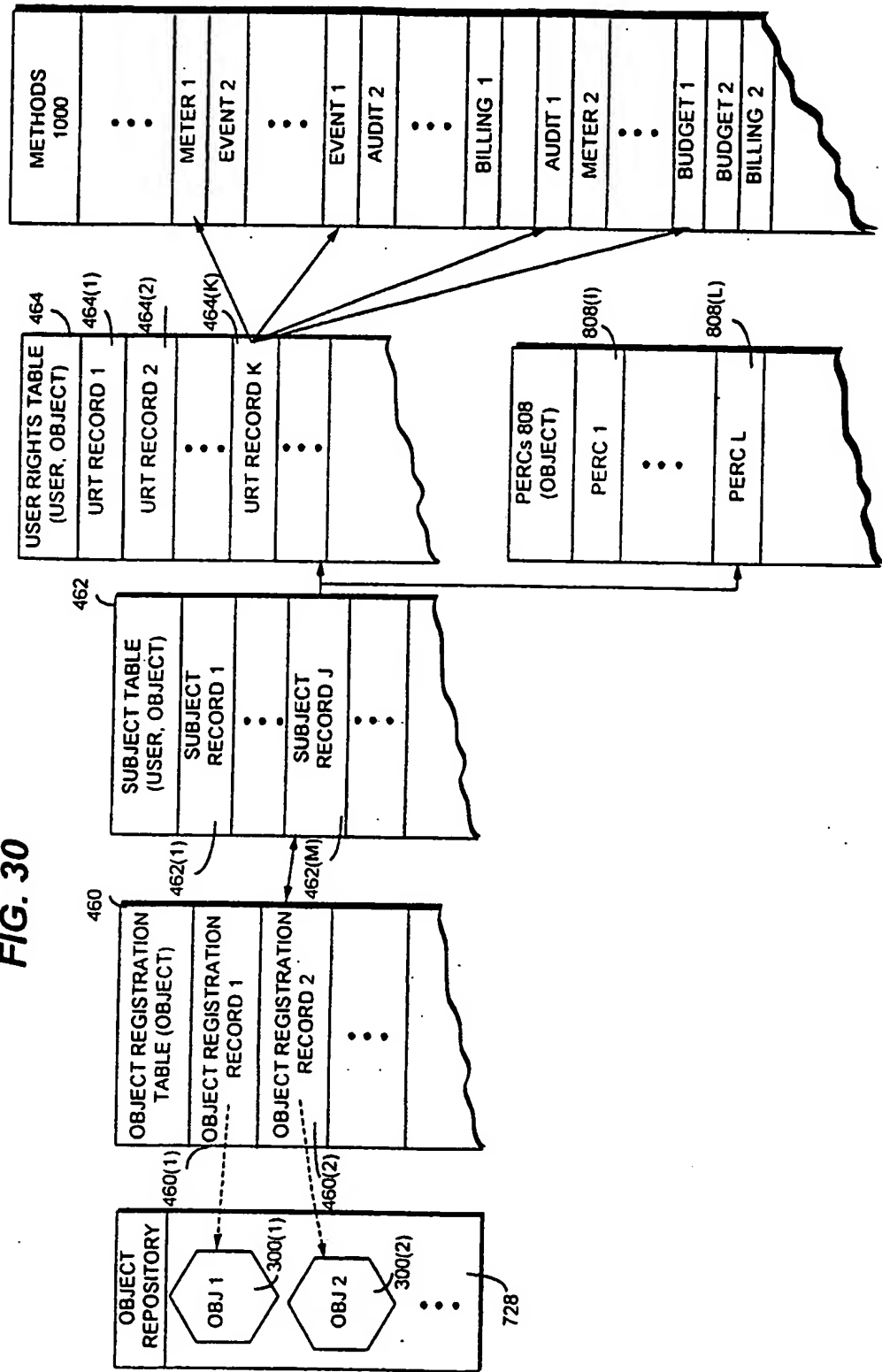


FIG. 30



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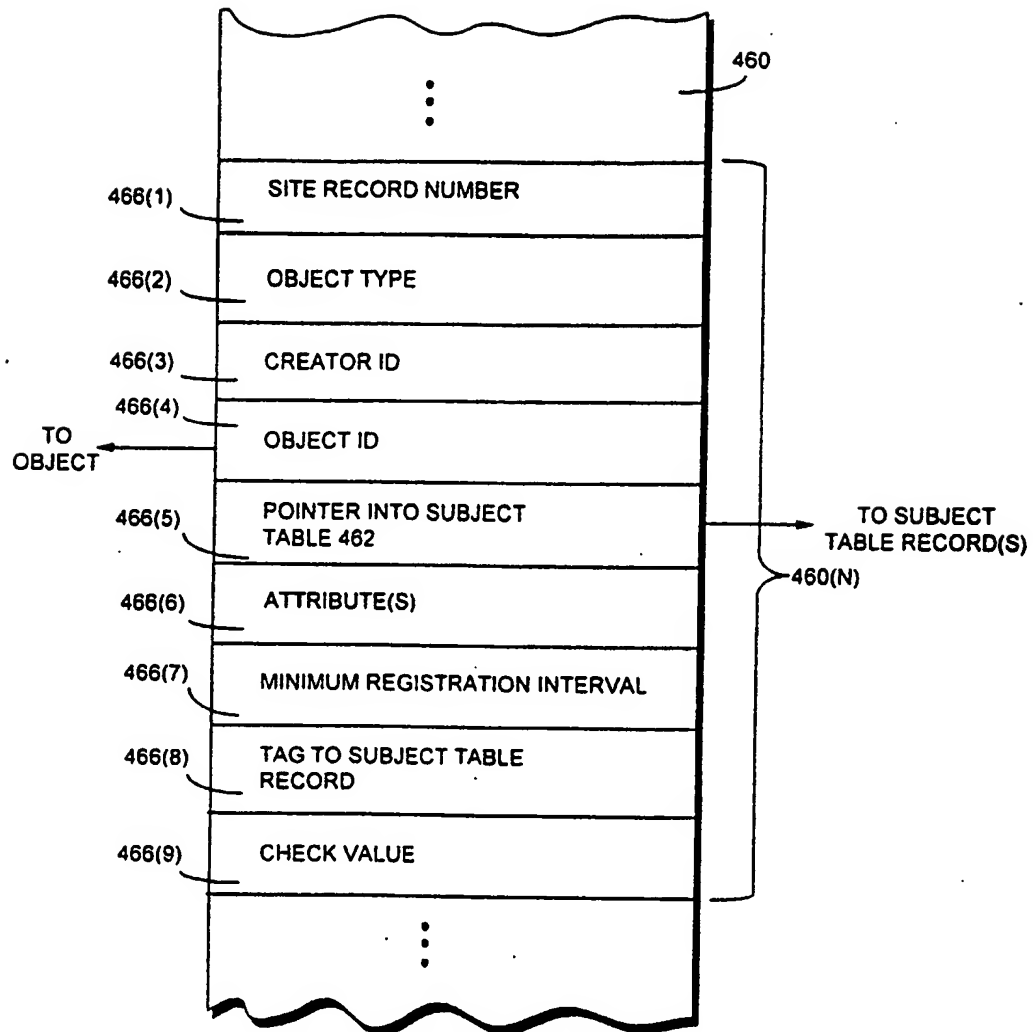
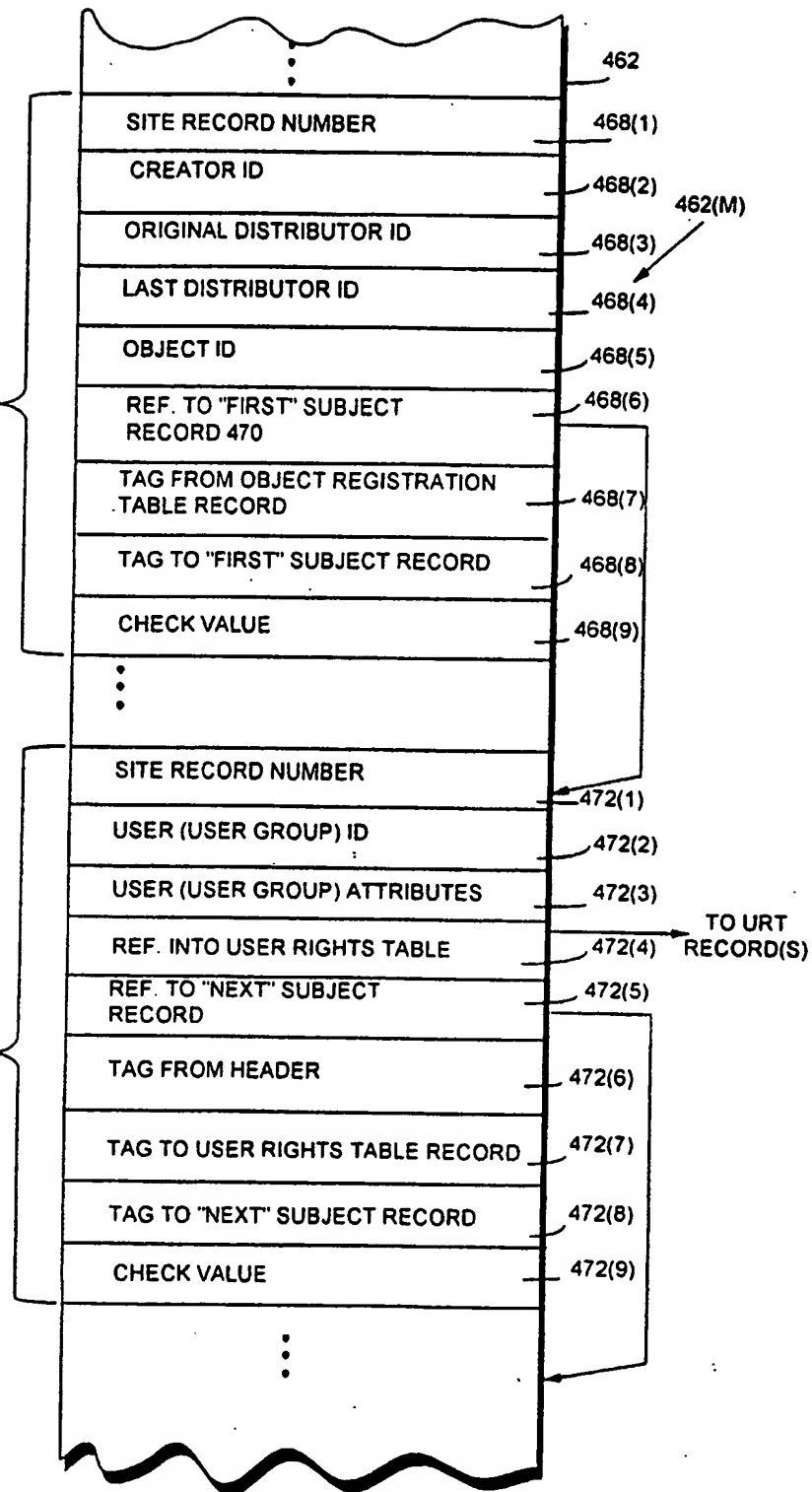
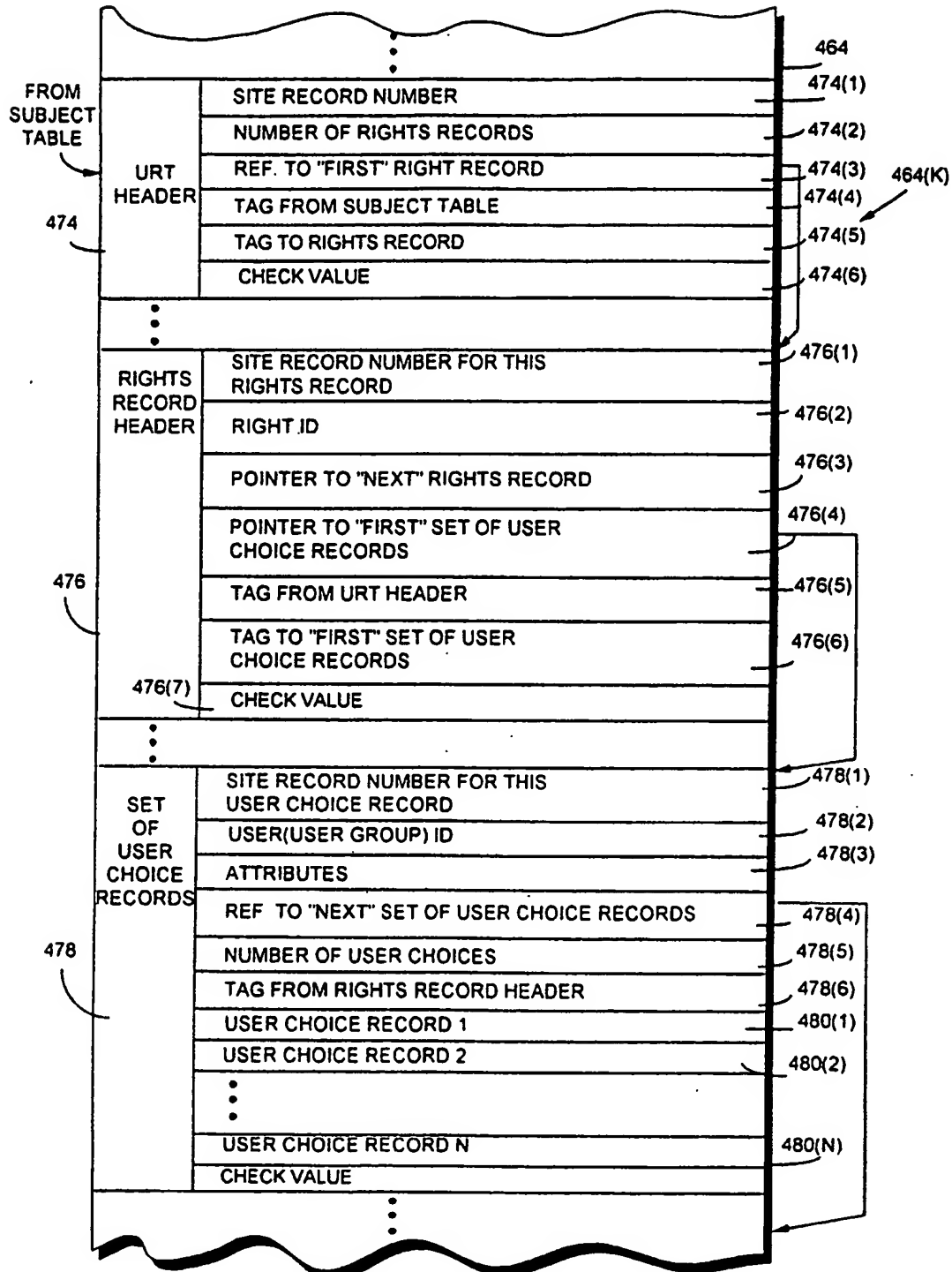


FIG. 31
OBJECT REGISTRATION TABLE

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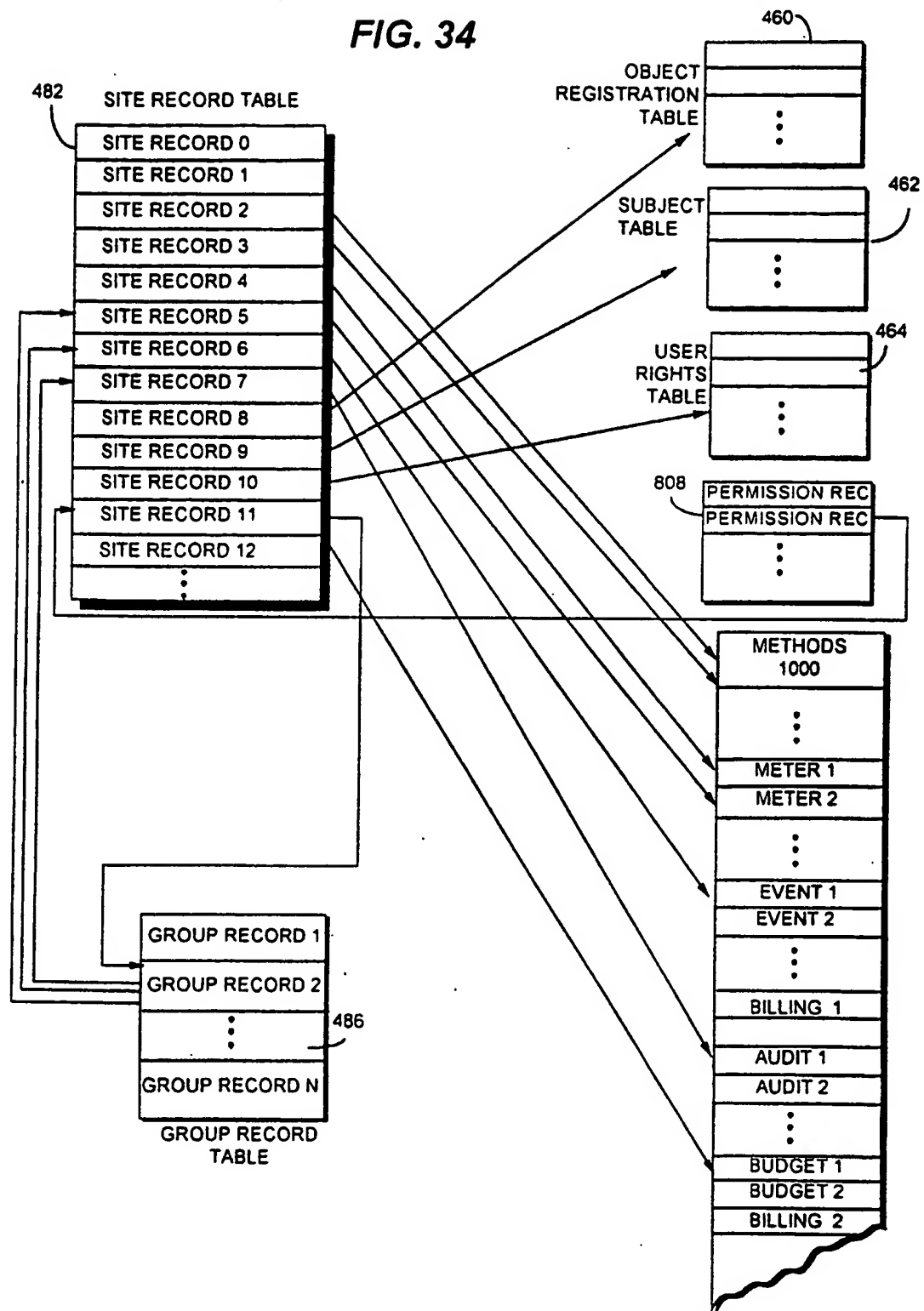
FIG. 32SUBJECT
TABLE"HEADER"
468SUBJECT
RECORD
470(1)

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FIG. 33 USER RIGHTS TABLE

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FIG. 34



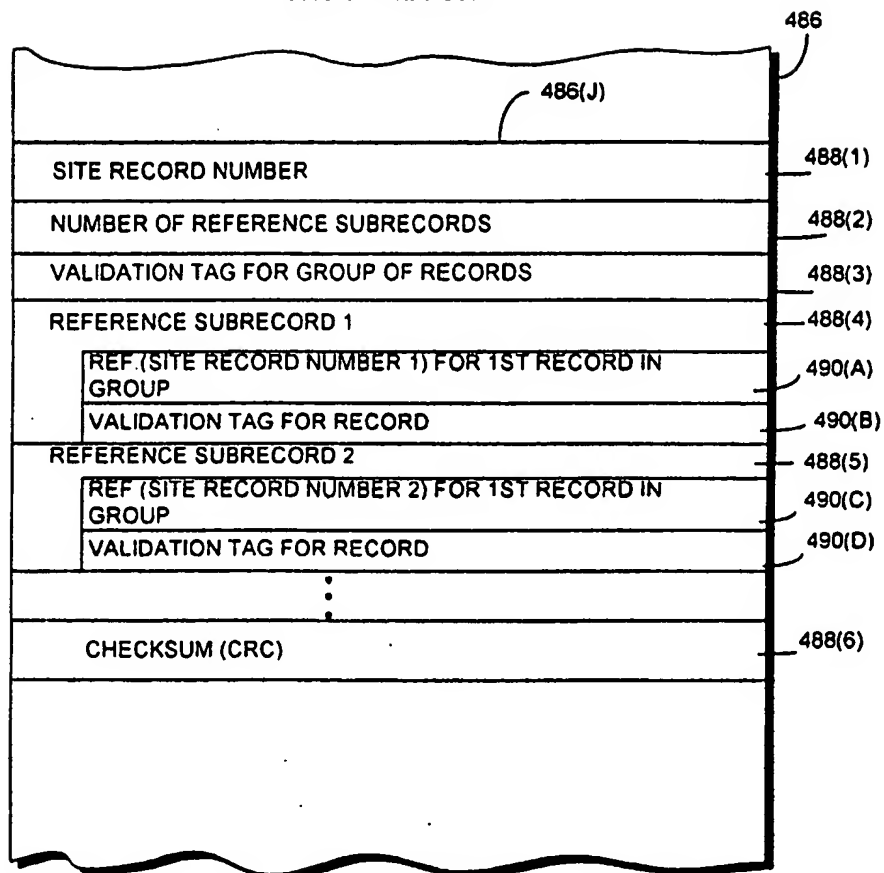
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FIG. 34A

SITE RECORD

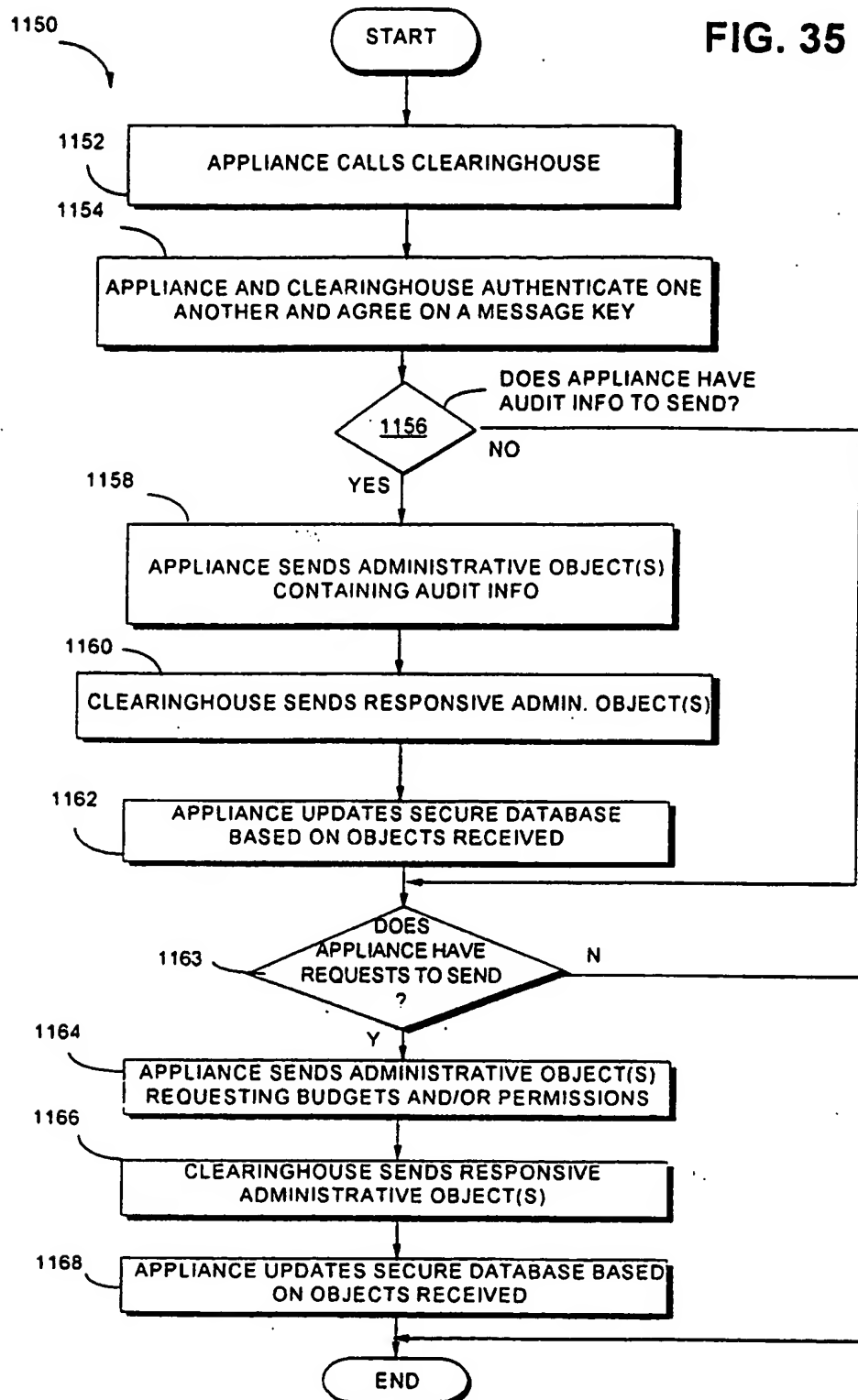
	482
	482(J)
TYPE OF RECORD	484(1)
OWNER OR CREATOR OF RECORD	484(2)
CLASS	484(3)
INSTANCE	484(4)
TYPE SPECIFIC DESCRIPTOR (e.g., OBJECT ID) ASSOCIATED WITH RECORD	484(5)
TABLE IN WHICH THE RECORD IS LOCATED	484(6)
POINTER - OFFSET, WITHIN THE TABLE, TO WHERE THE RECORD BEGINS	484(7)
RECORD LENGTH	484(8)
VALIDATION TAG FOR RECORD	484(9)
CHECK VALUE	484(10)

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FIG. 34B**GROUP RECORD**

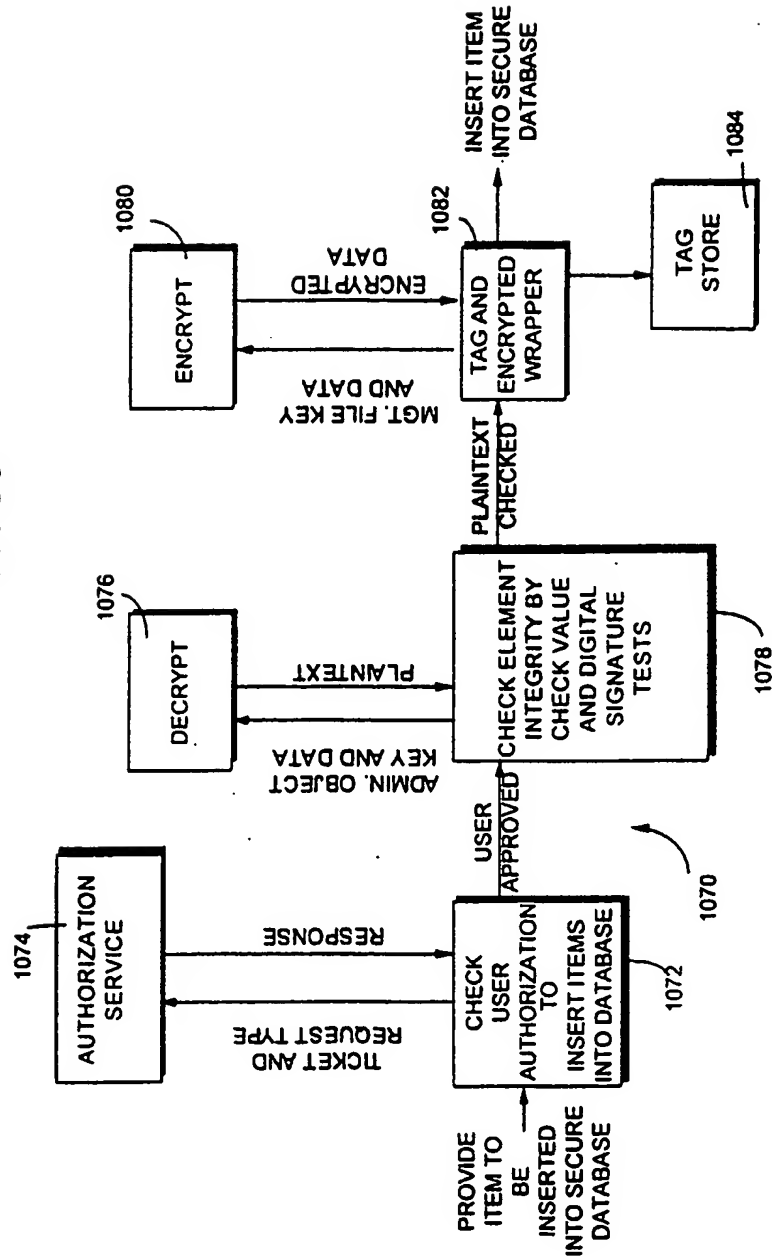
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FIG. 35



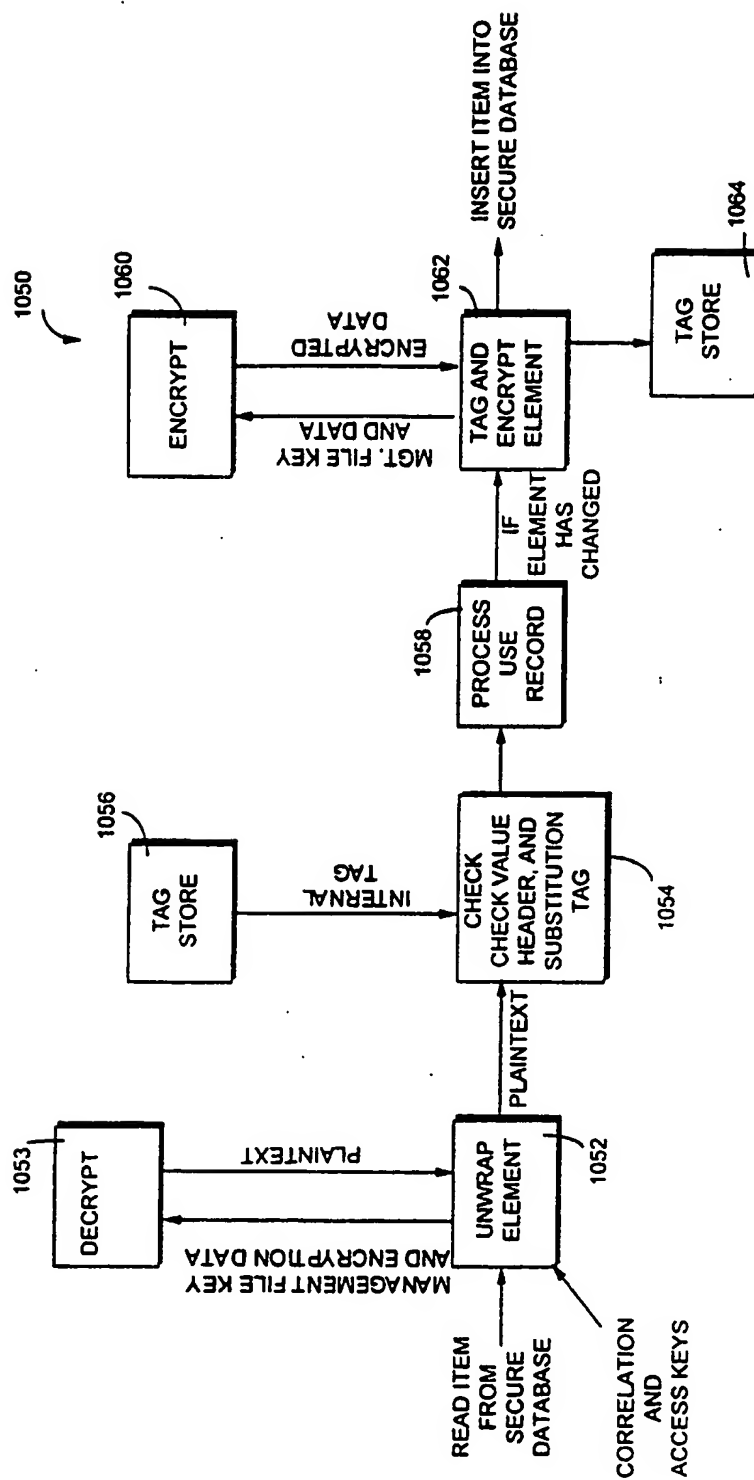
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FIG. 36



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FIG. 37



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FIG. 38

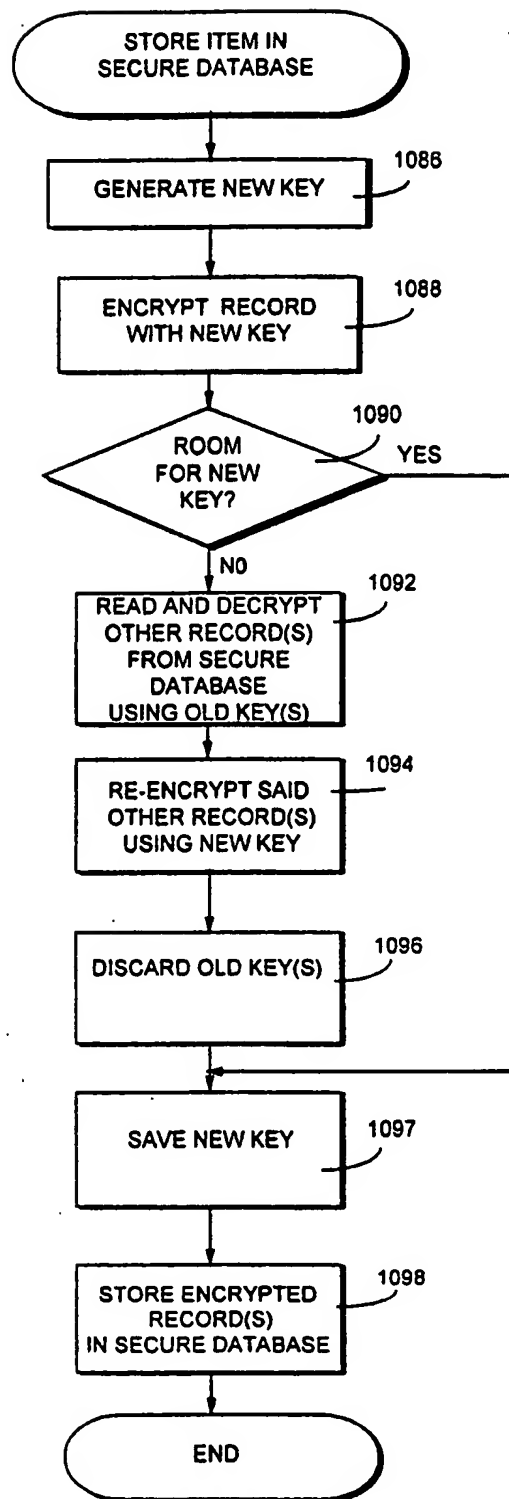
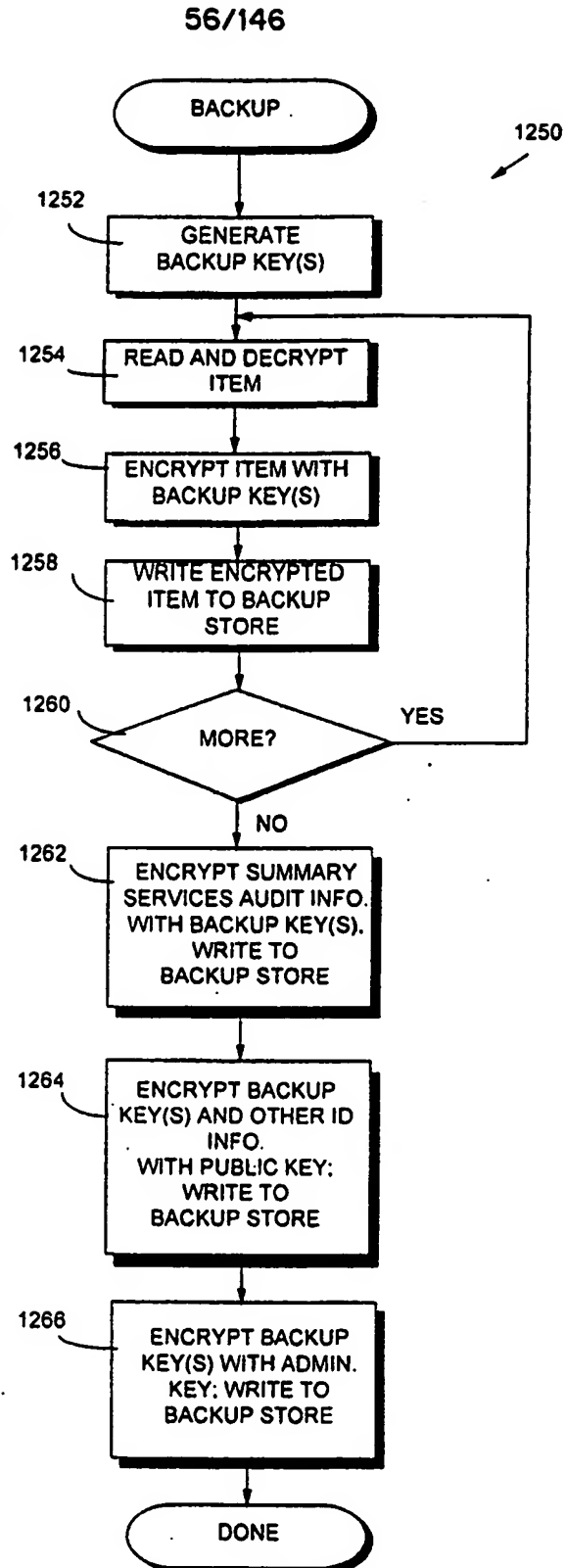
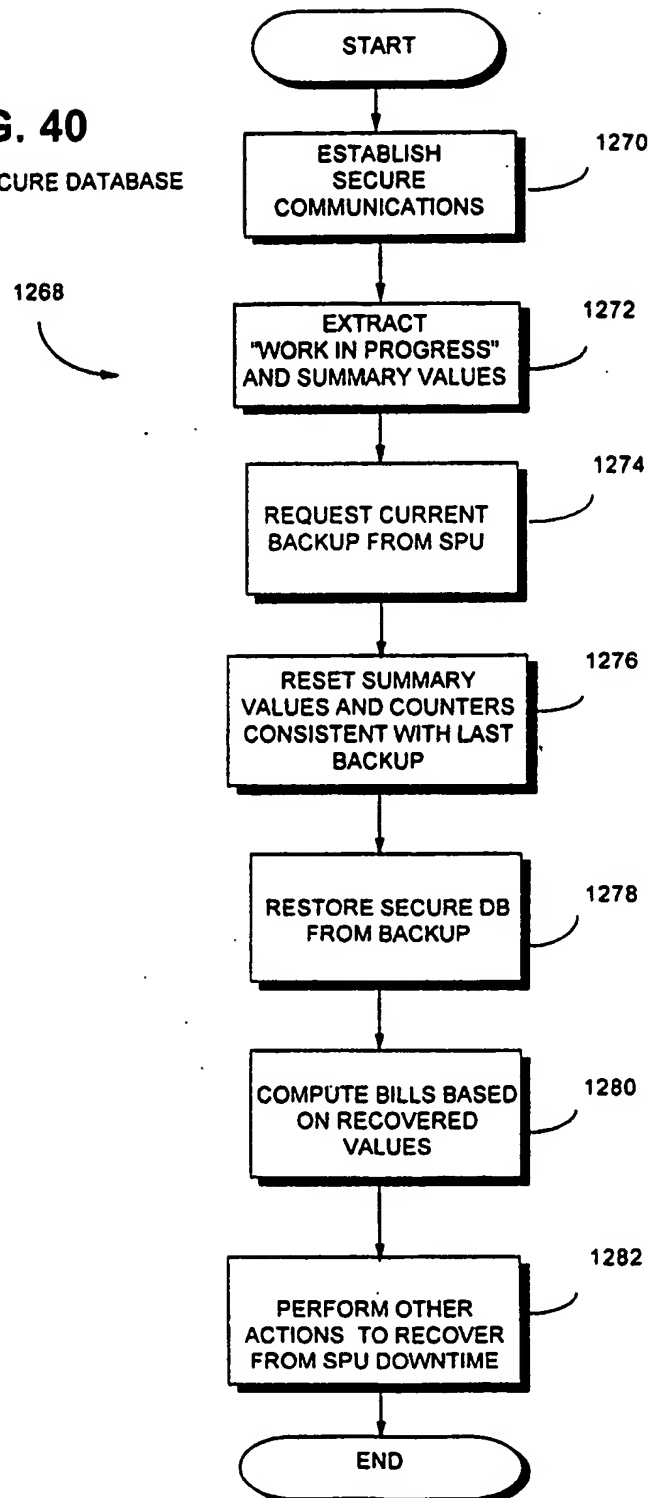


FIG. 39
BACKUP

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FIG. 40
RECOVER SECURE DATABASE



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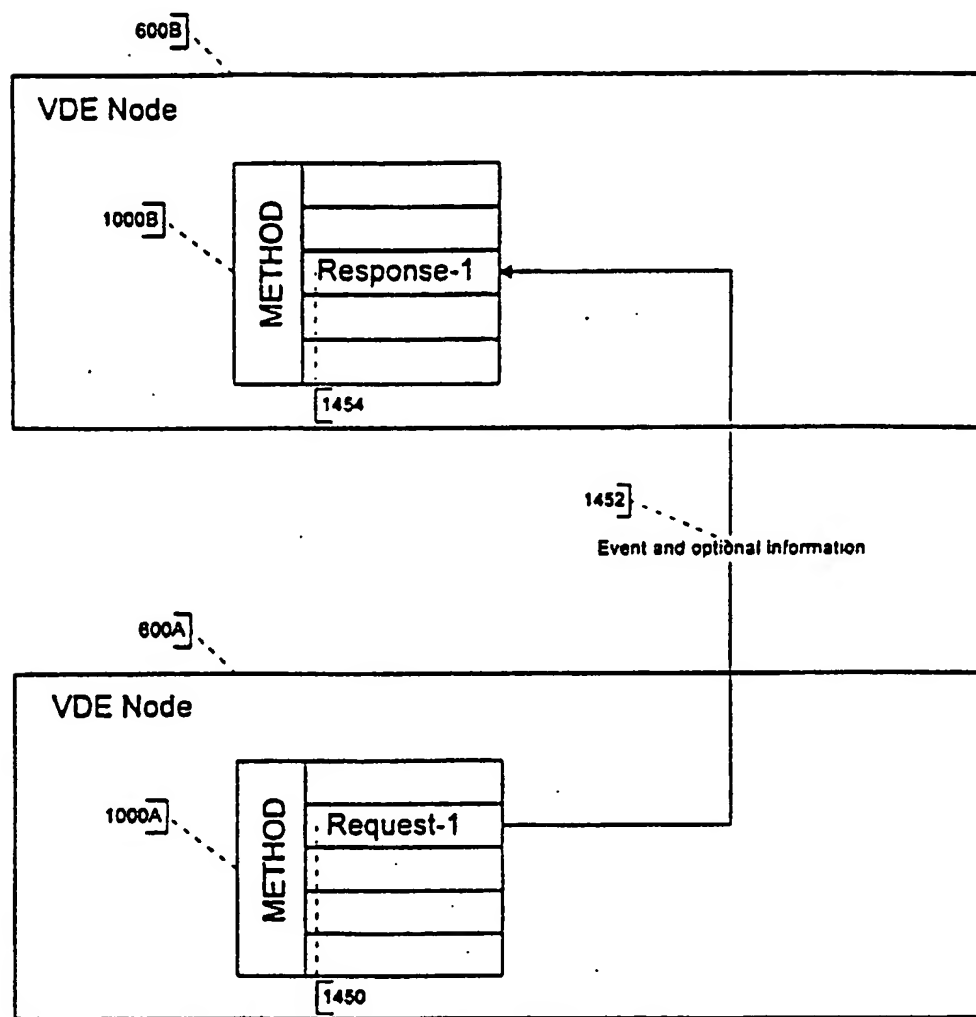


Figure 41a

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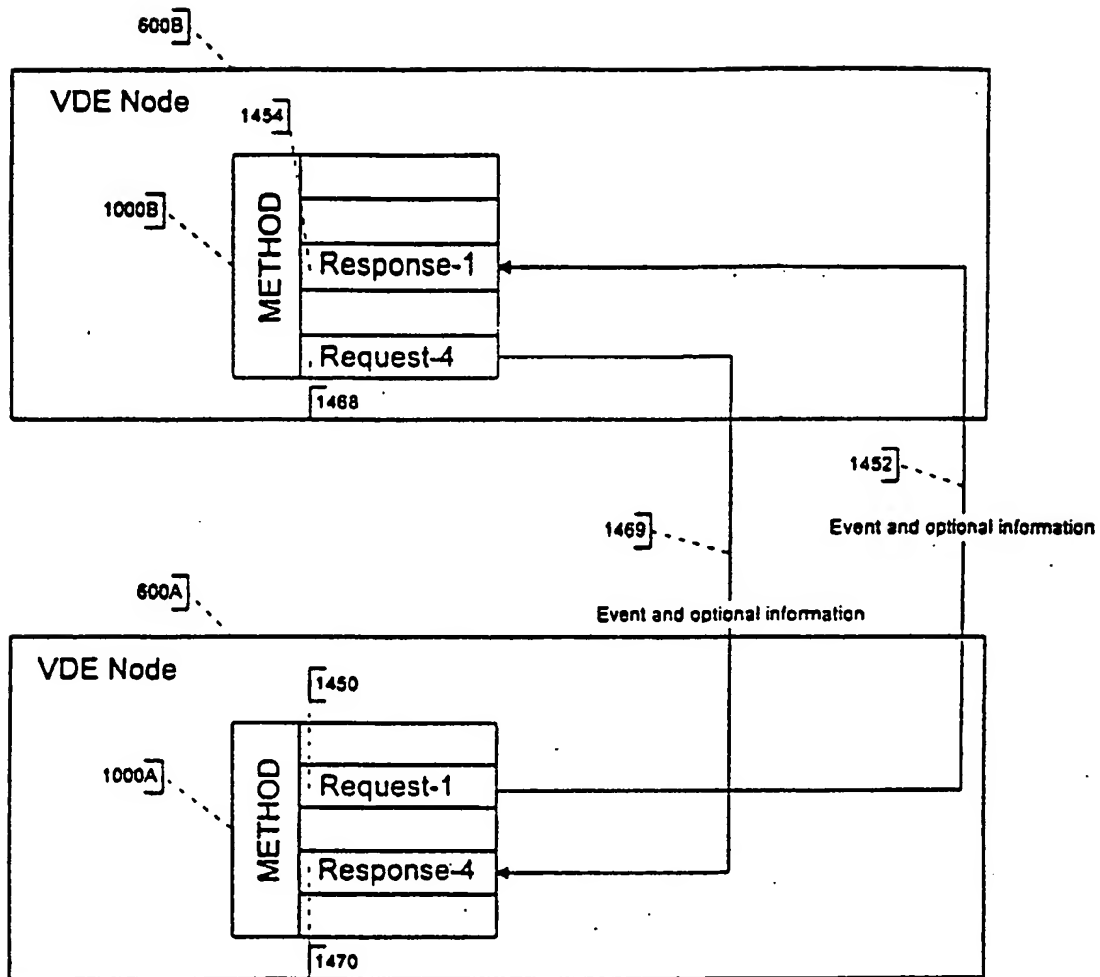


Figure 41b

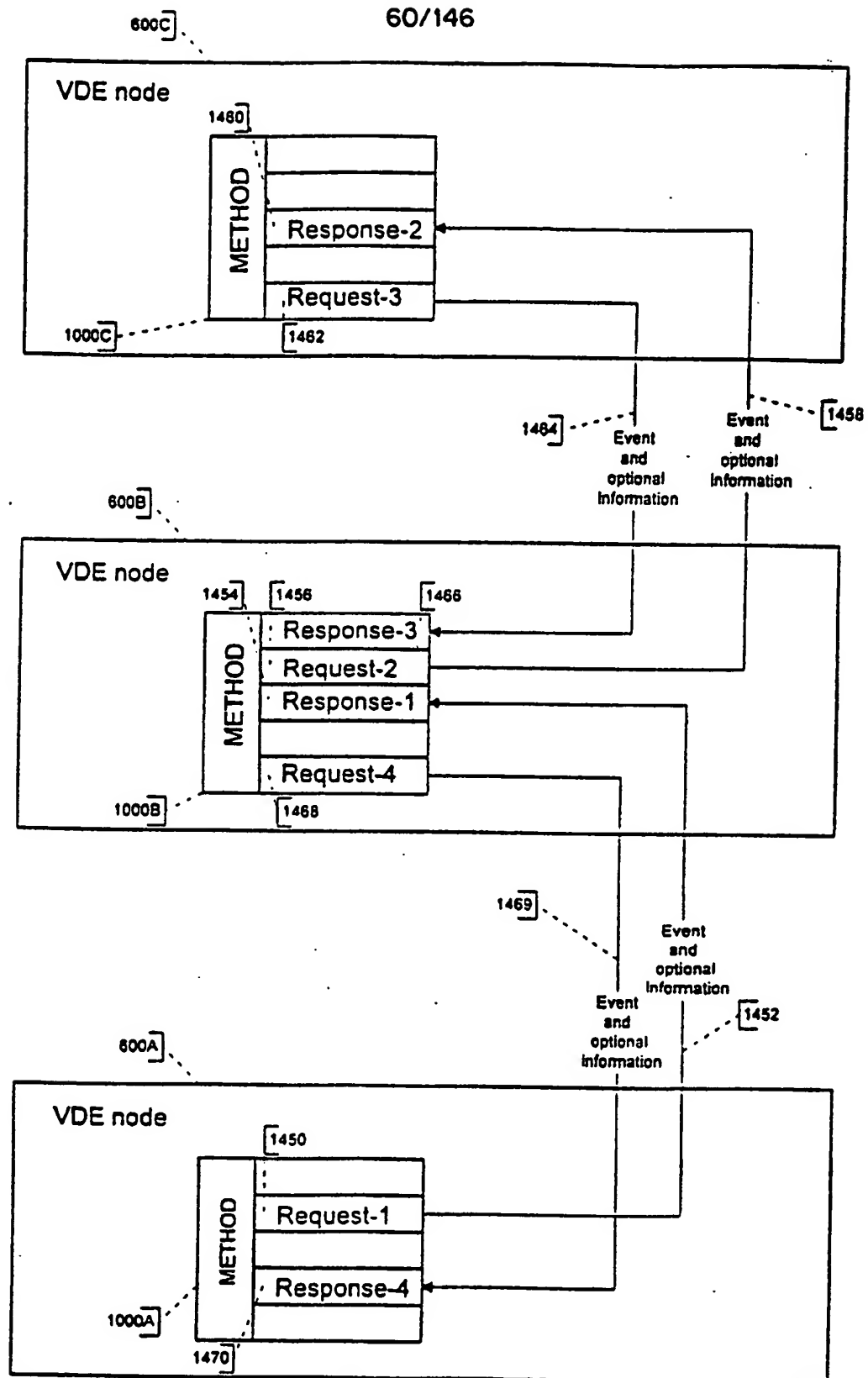


Figure 41c

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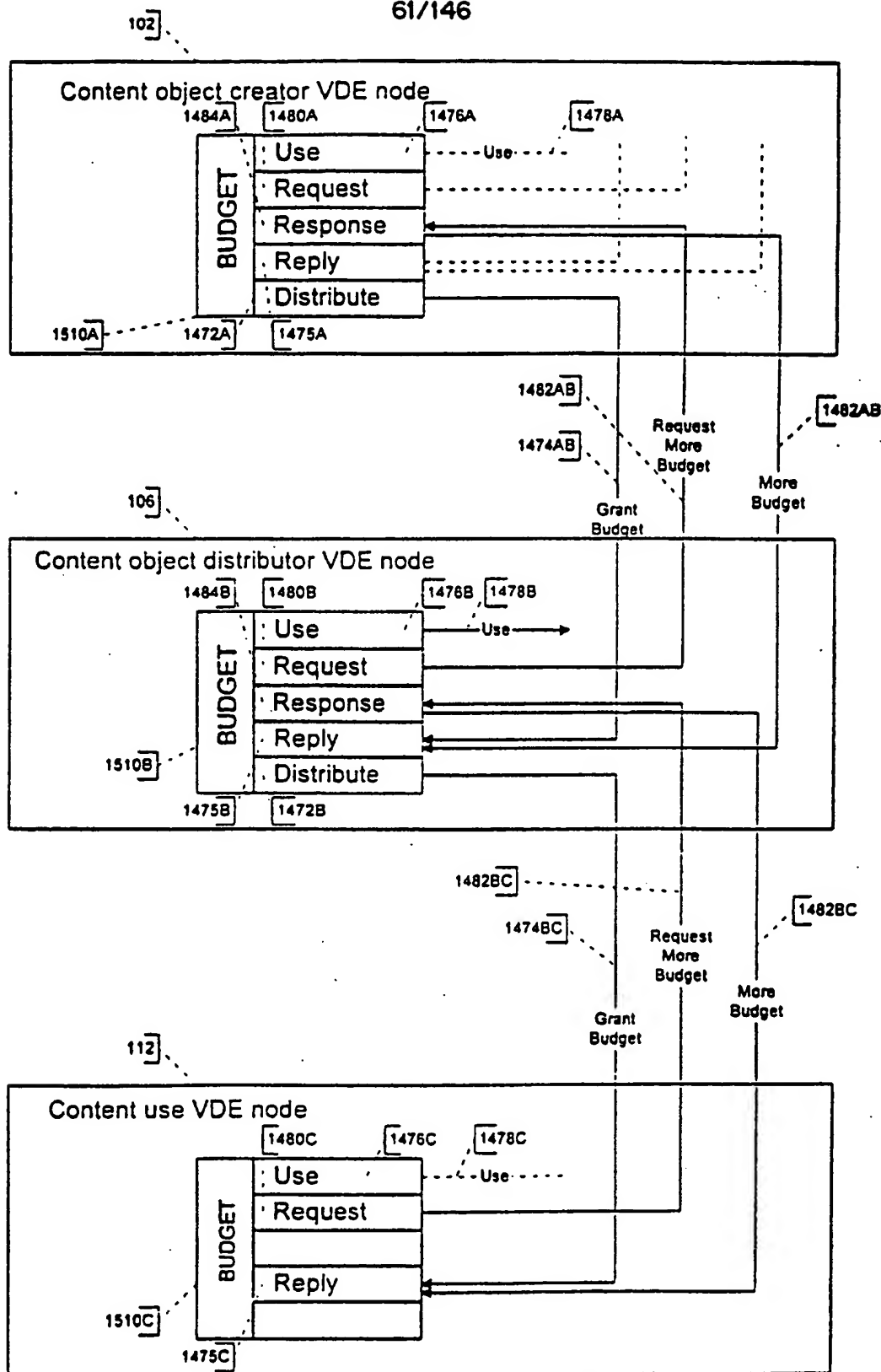


Figure 41d

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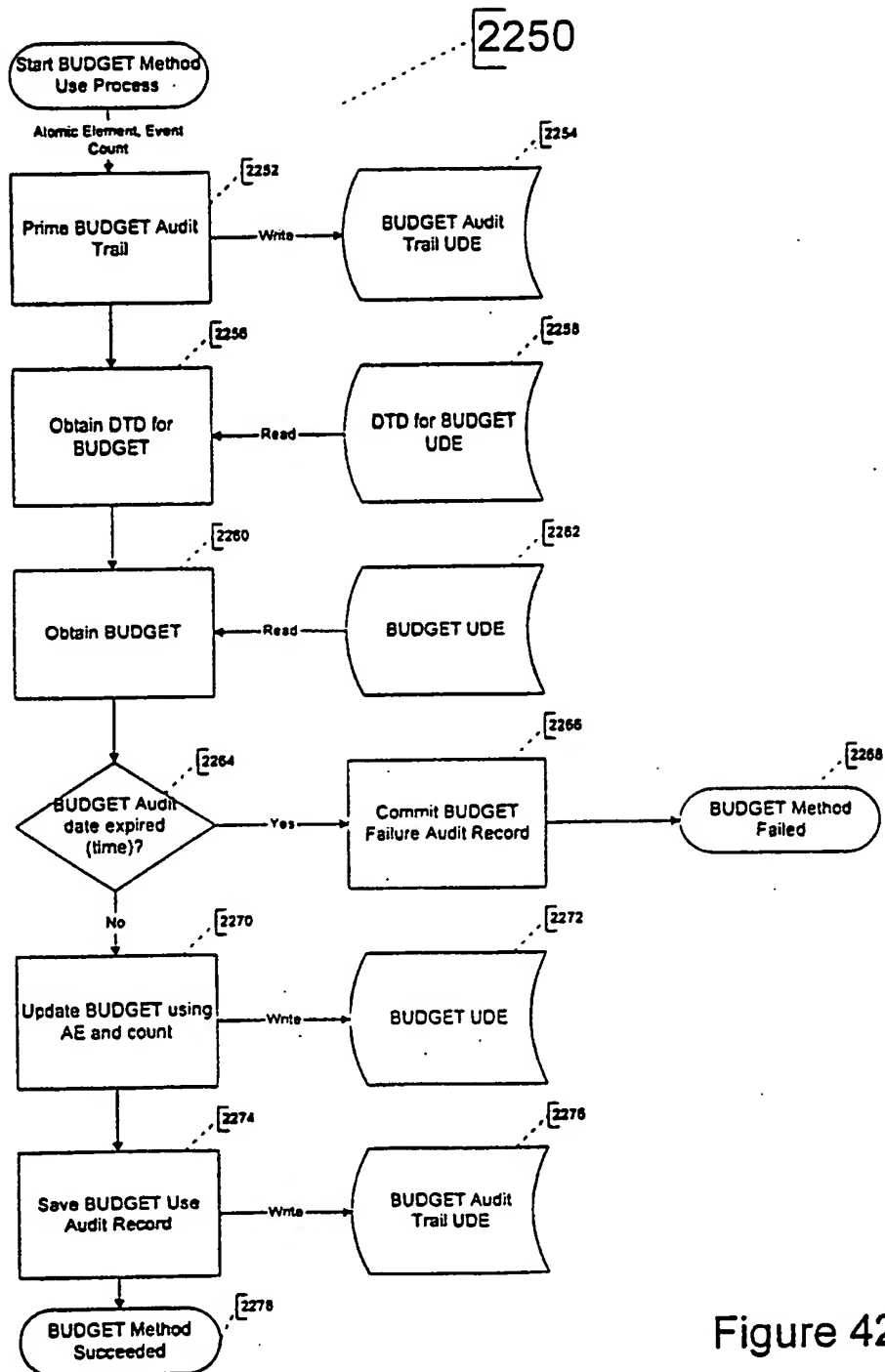


Figure 42a

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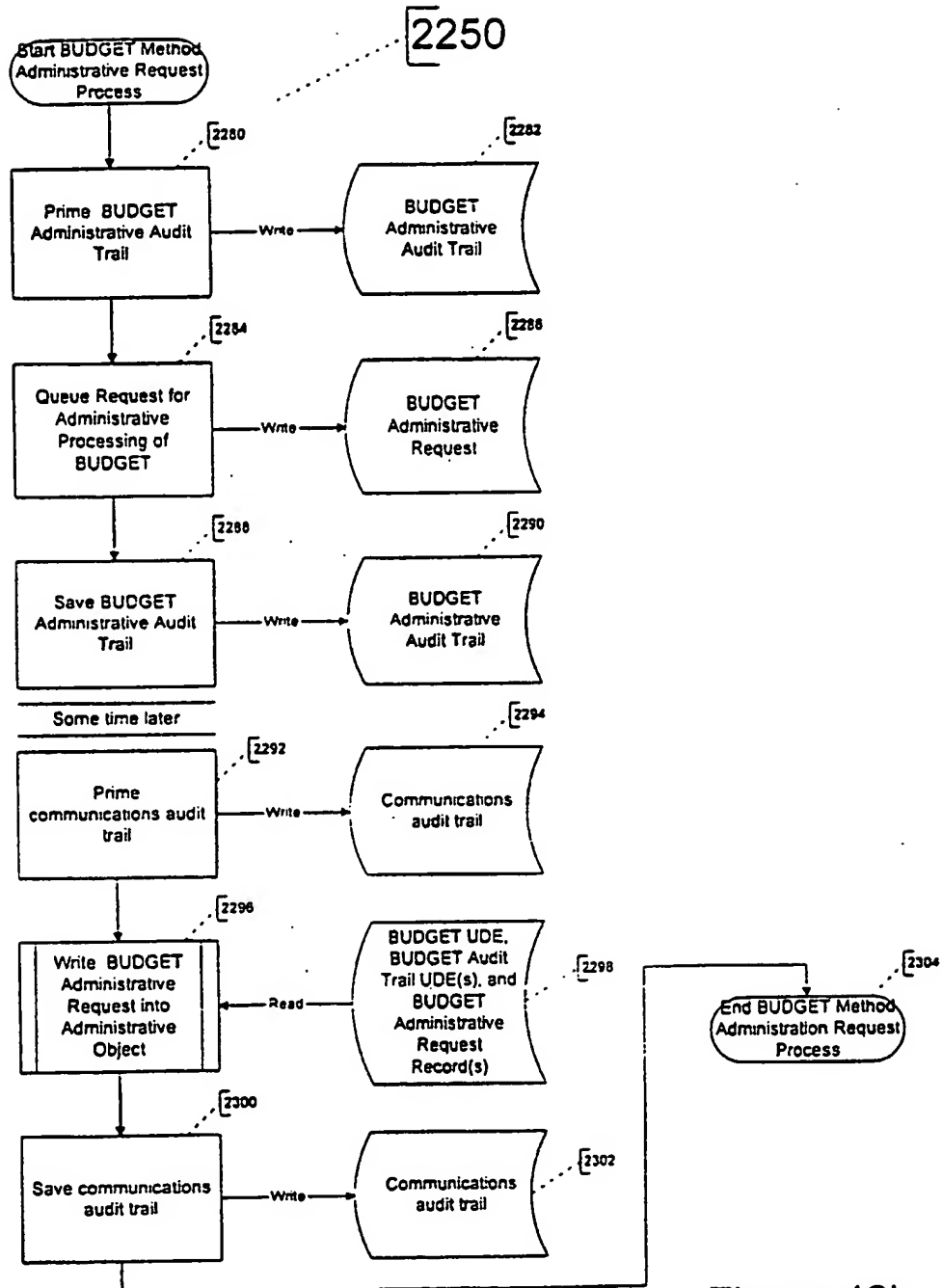
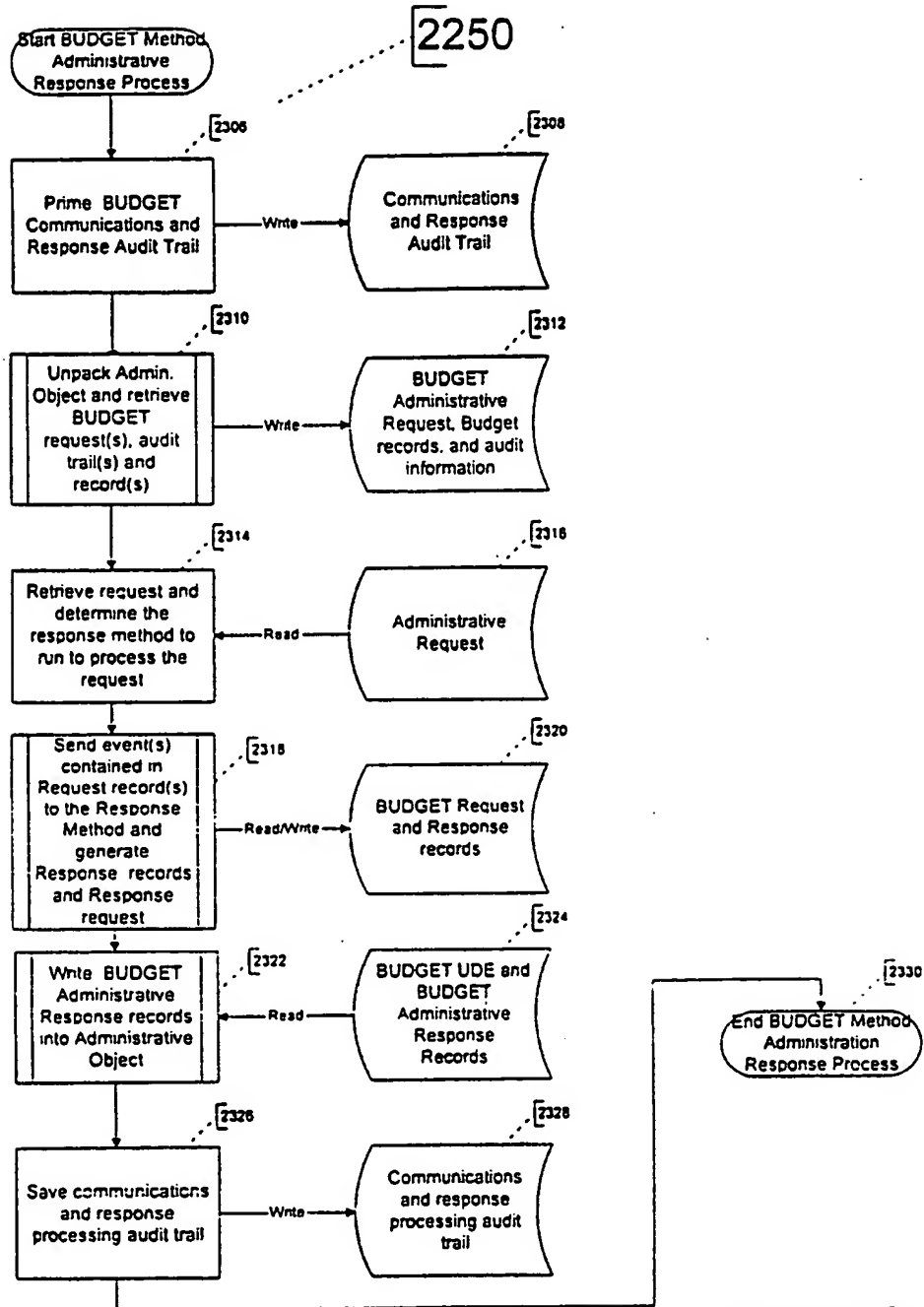


Figure 42b

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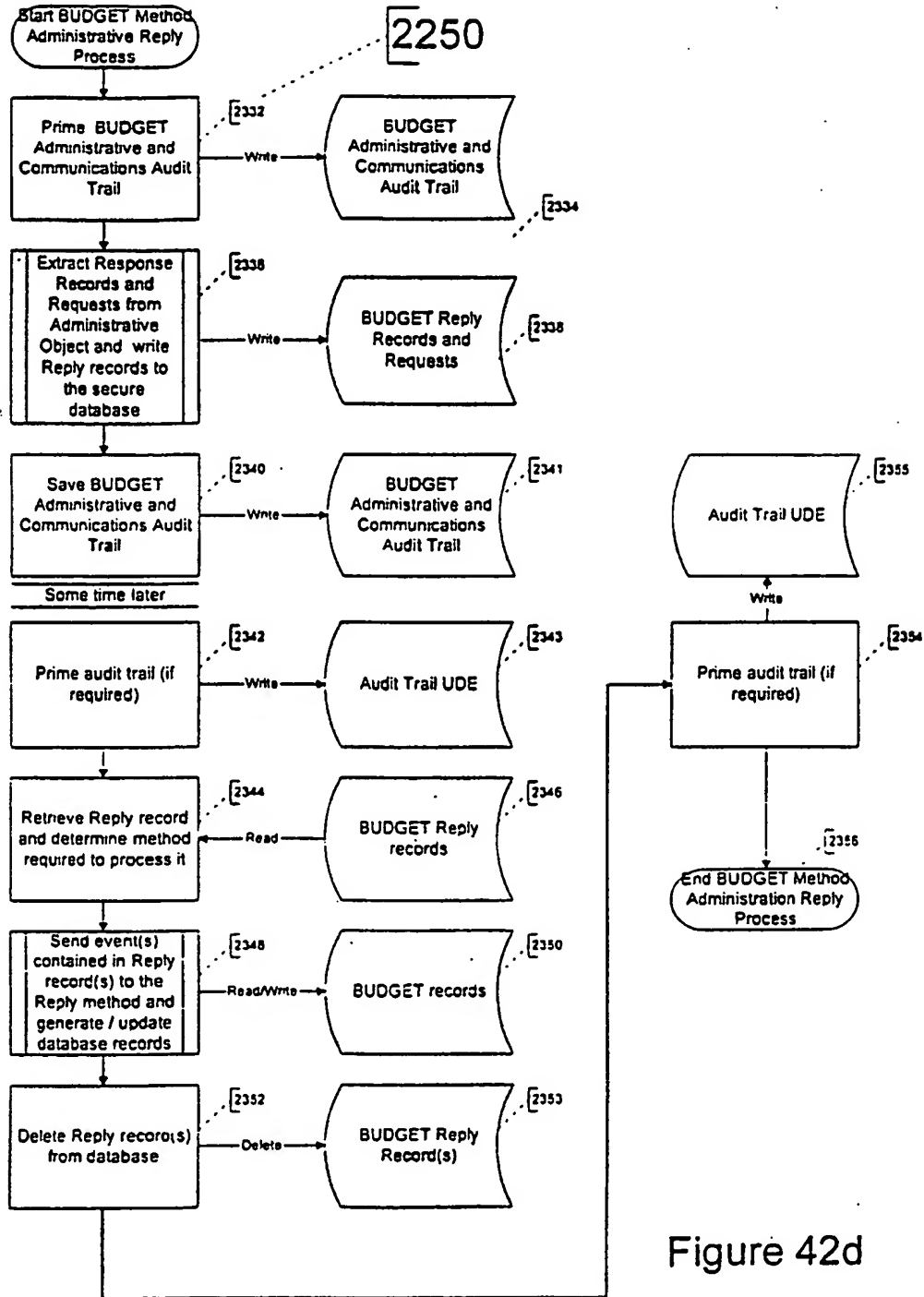


Figure 42d

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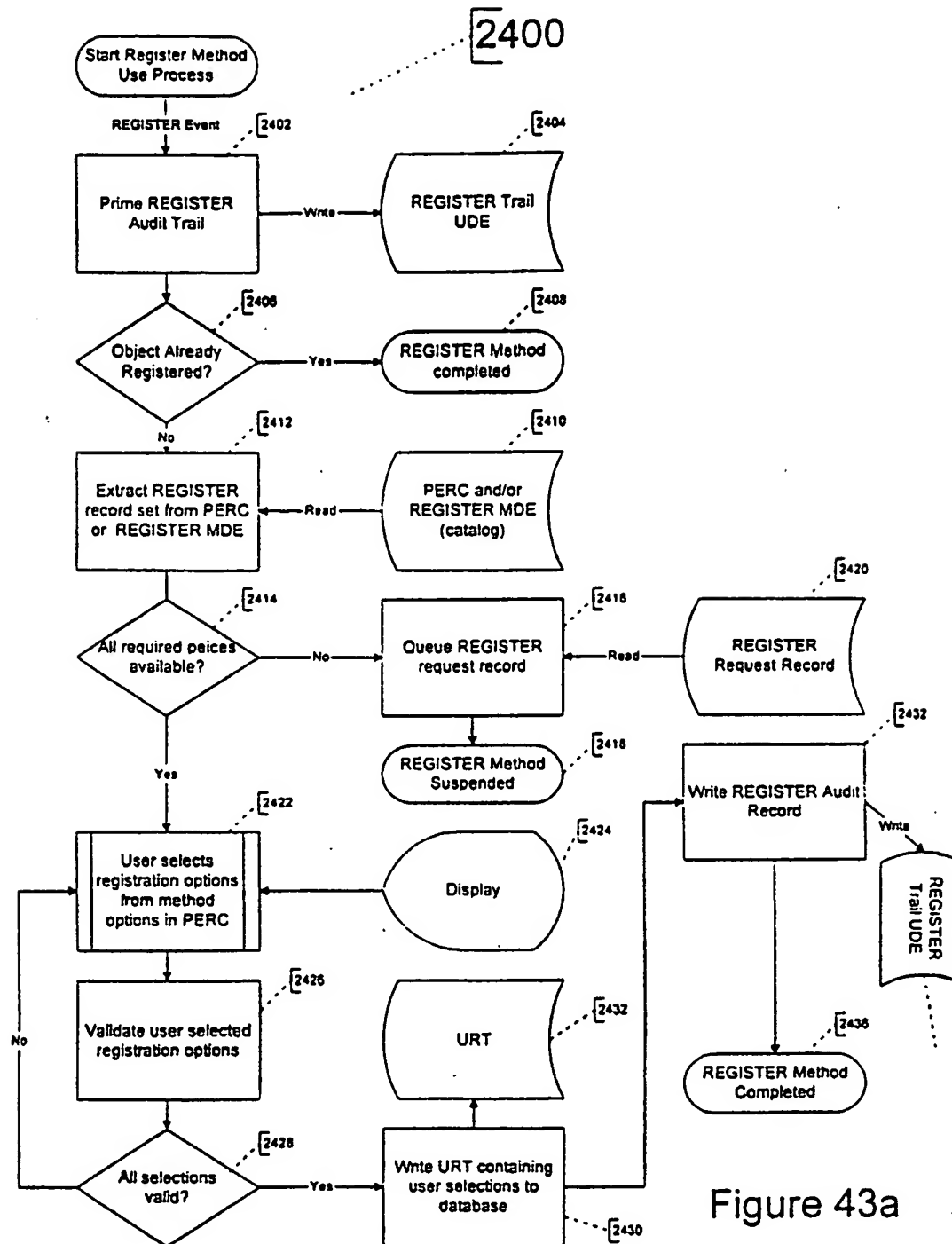


Figure 43a

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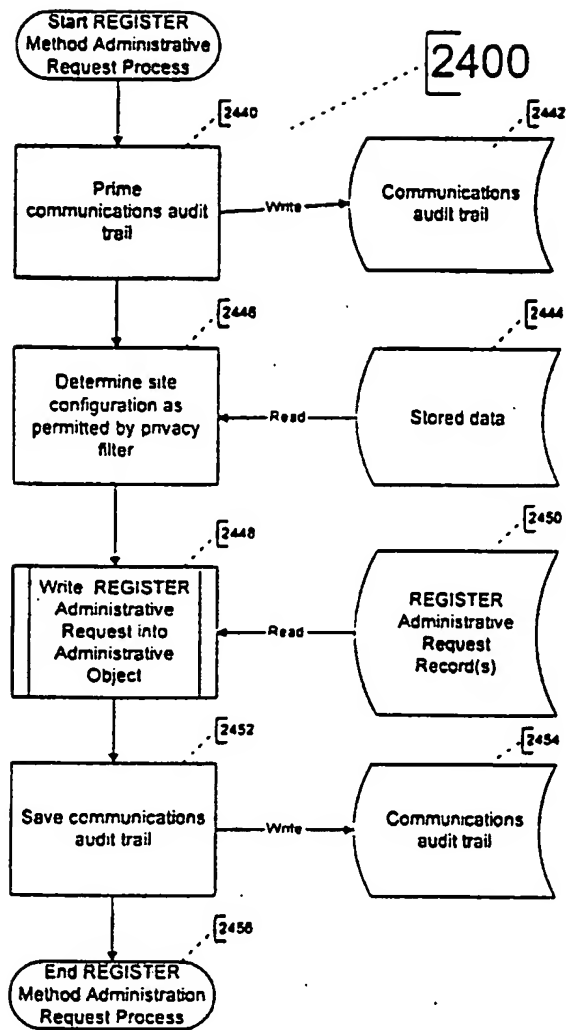


Figure 43b

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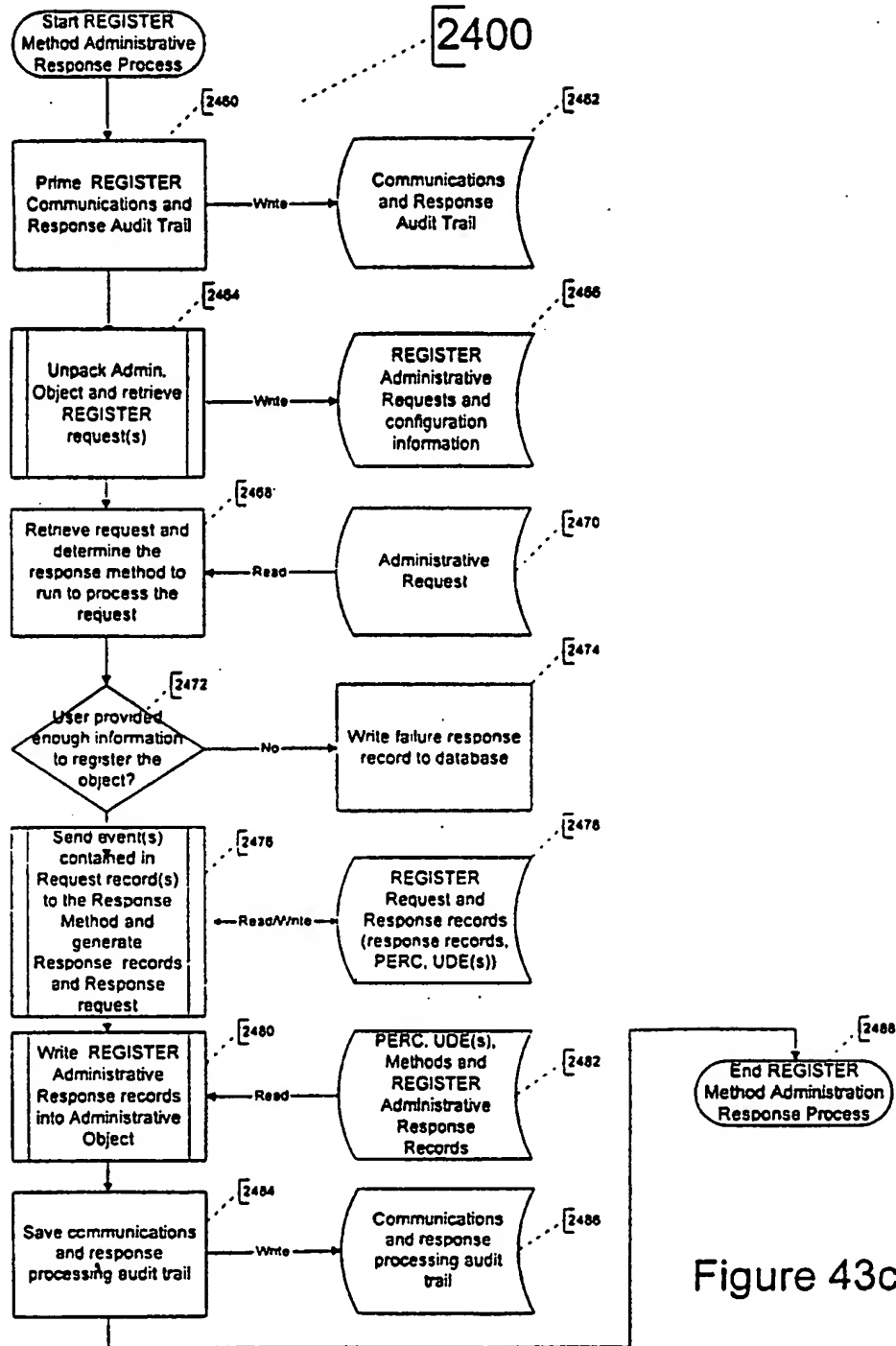


Figure 43c

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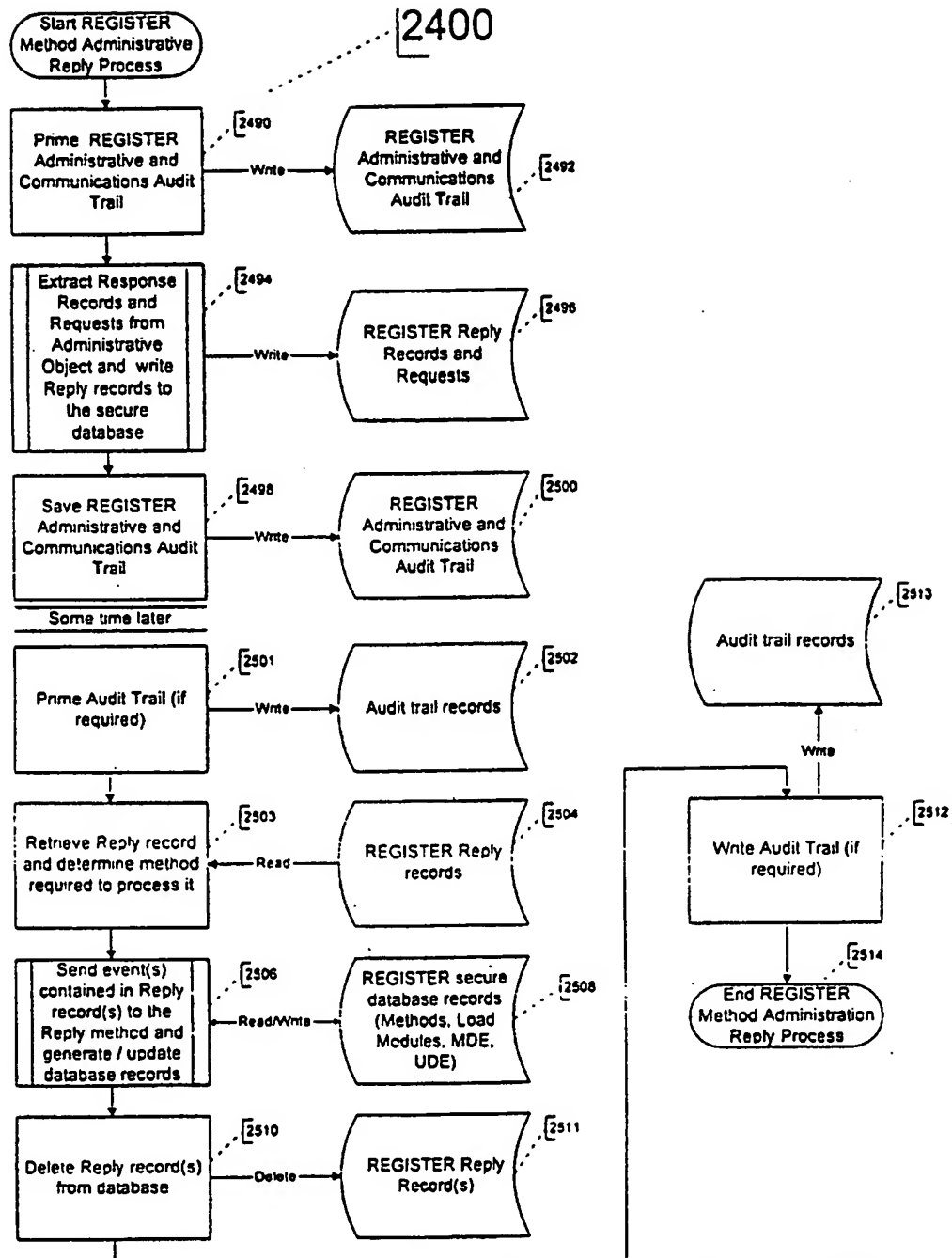


Figure 43d

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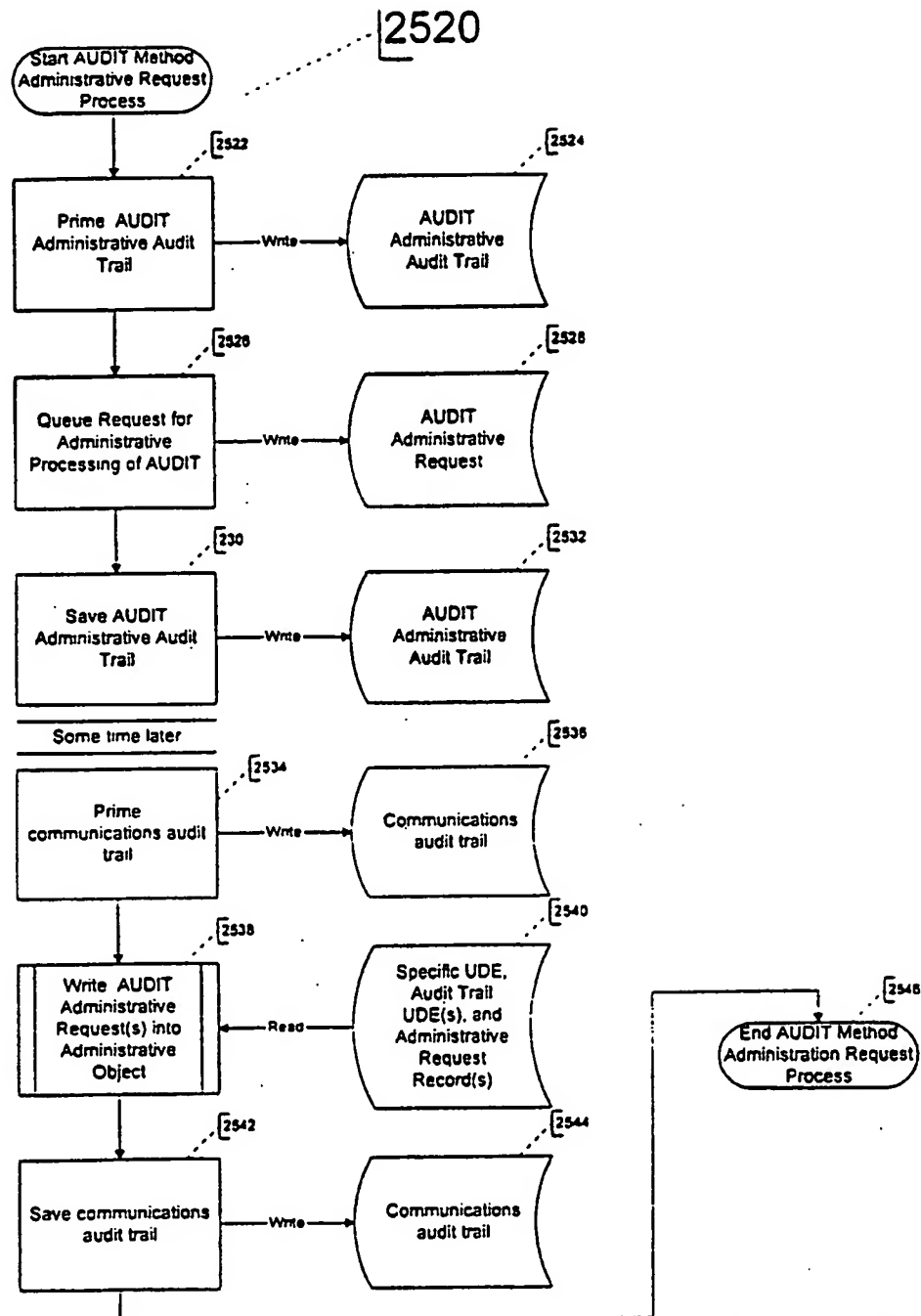


Figure 44a

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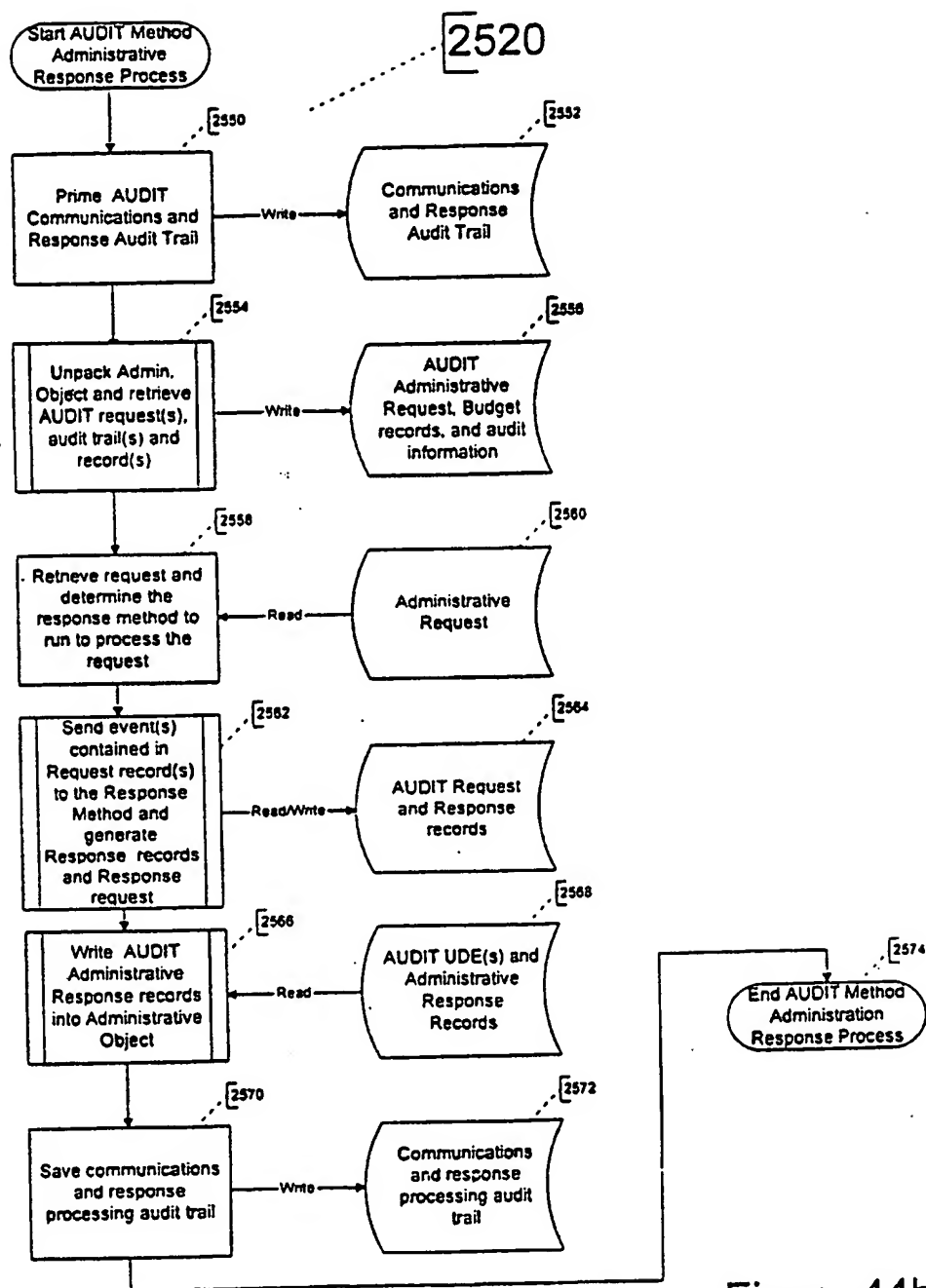


Figure 44b

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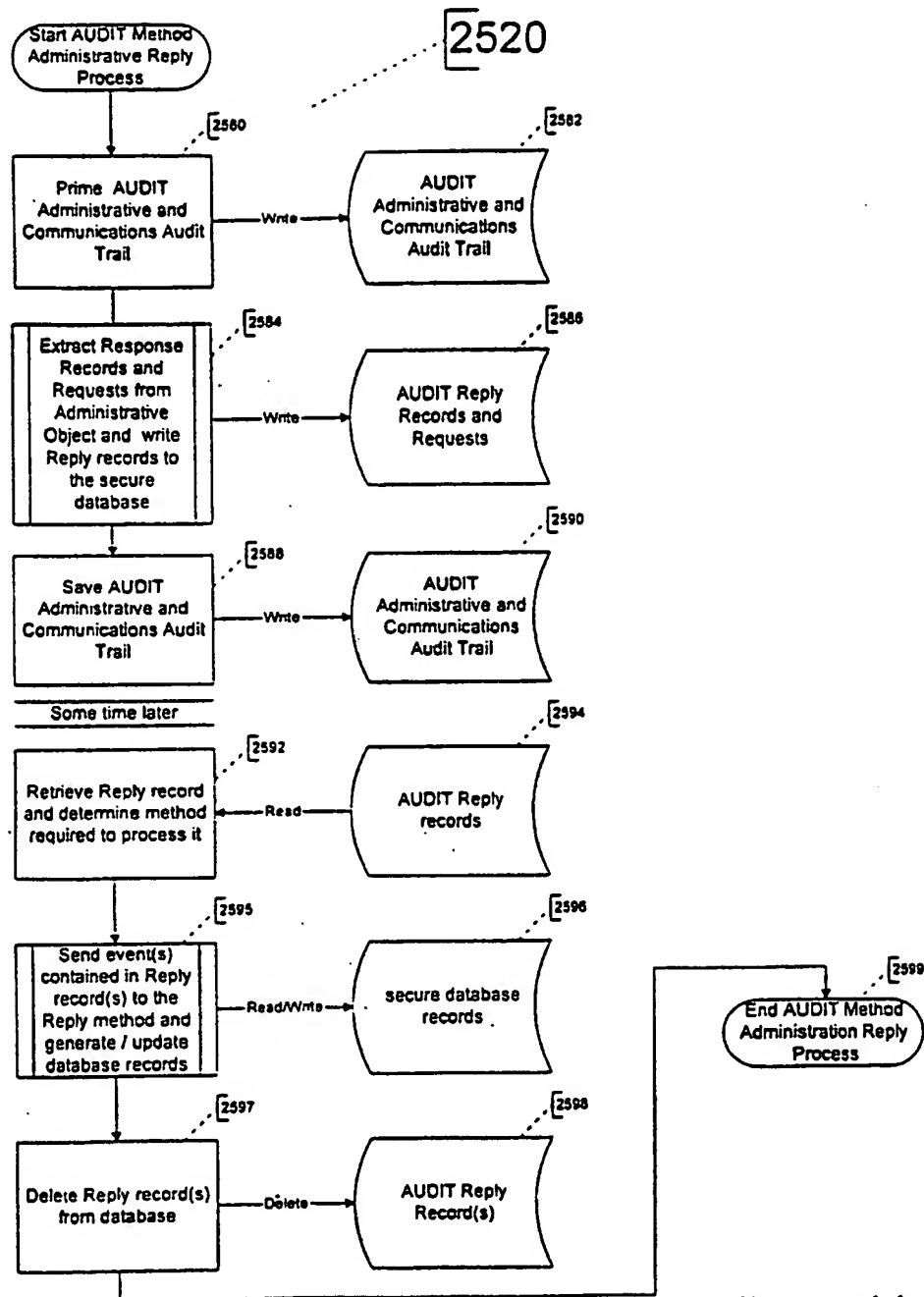
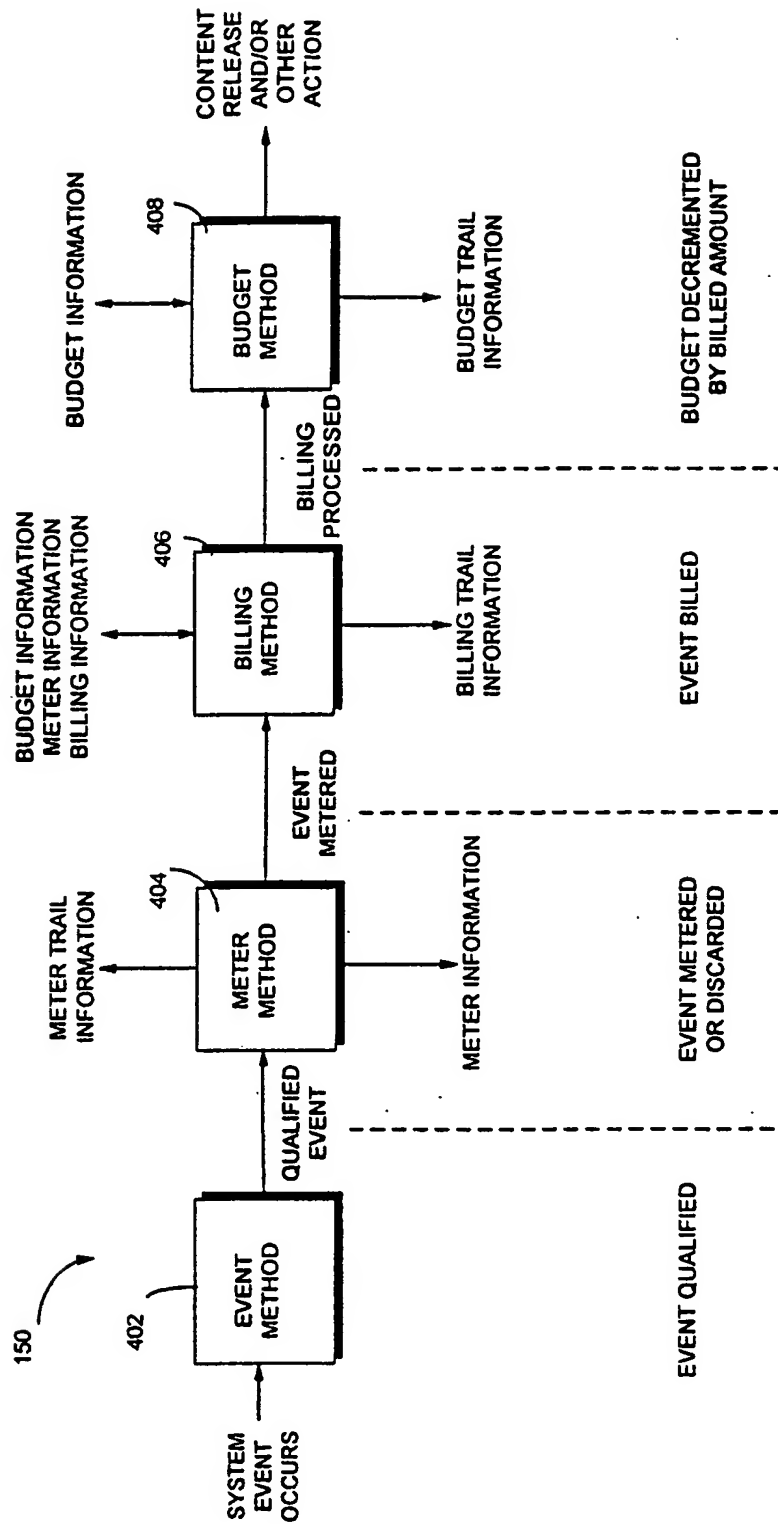


Figure 44c

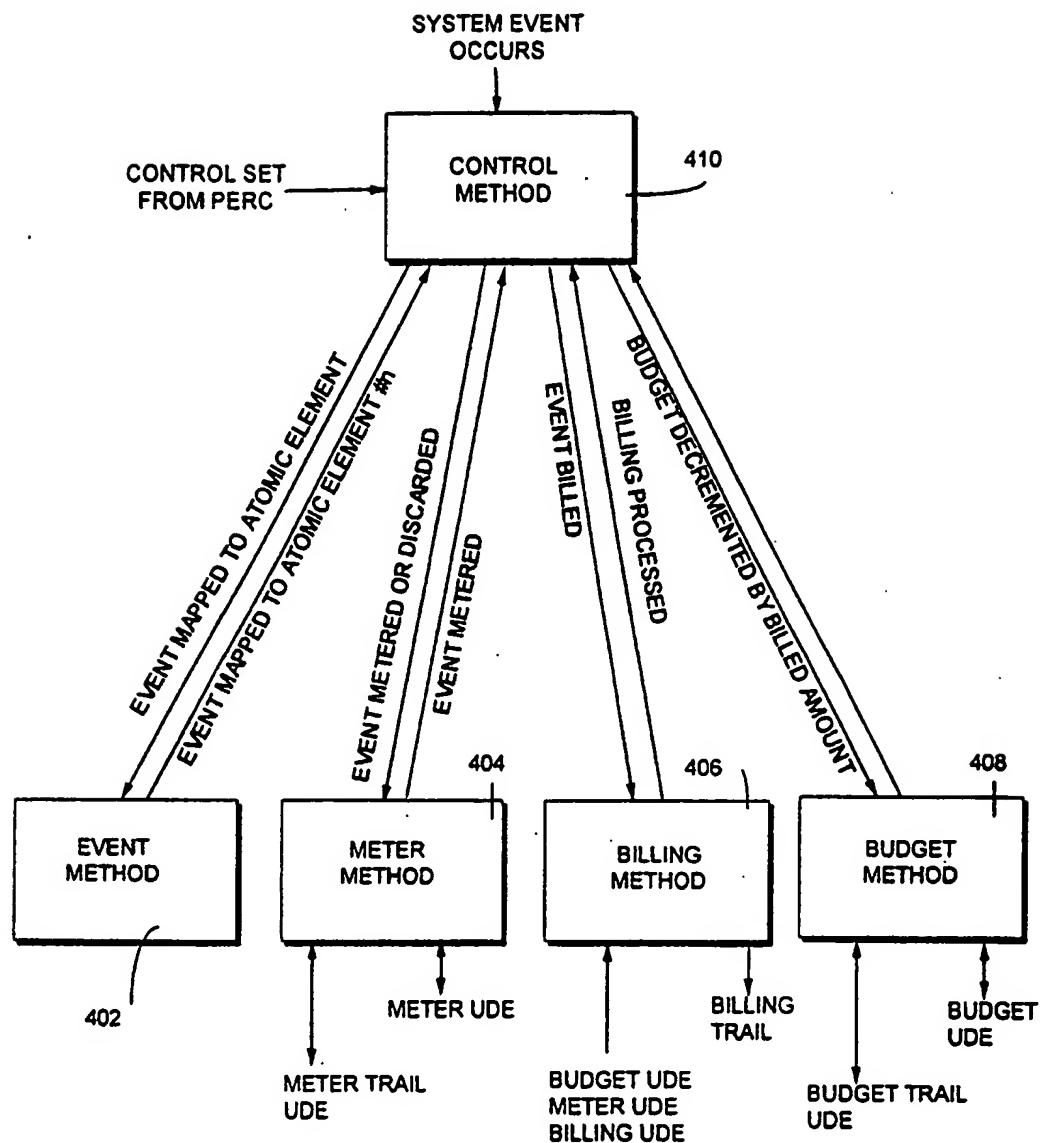
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FIG. 45



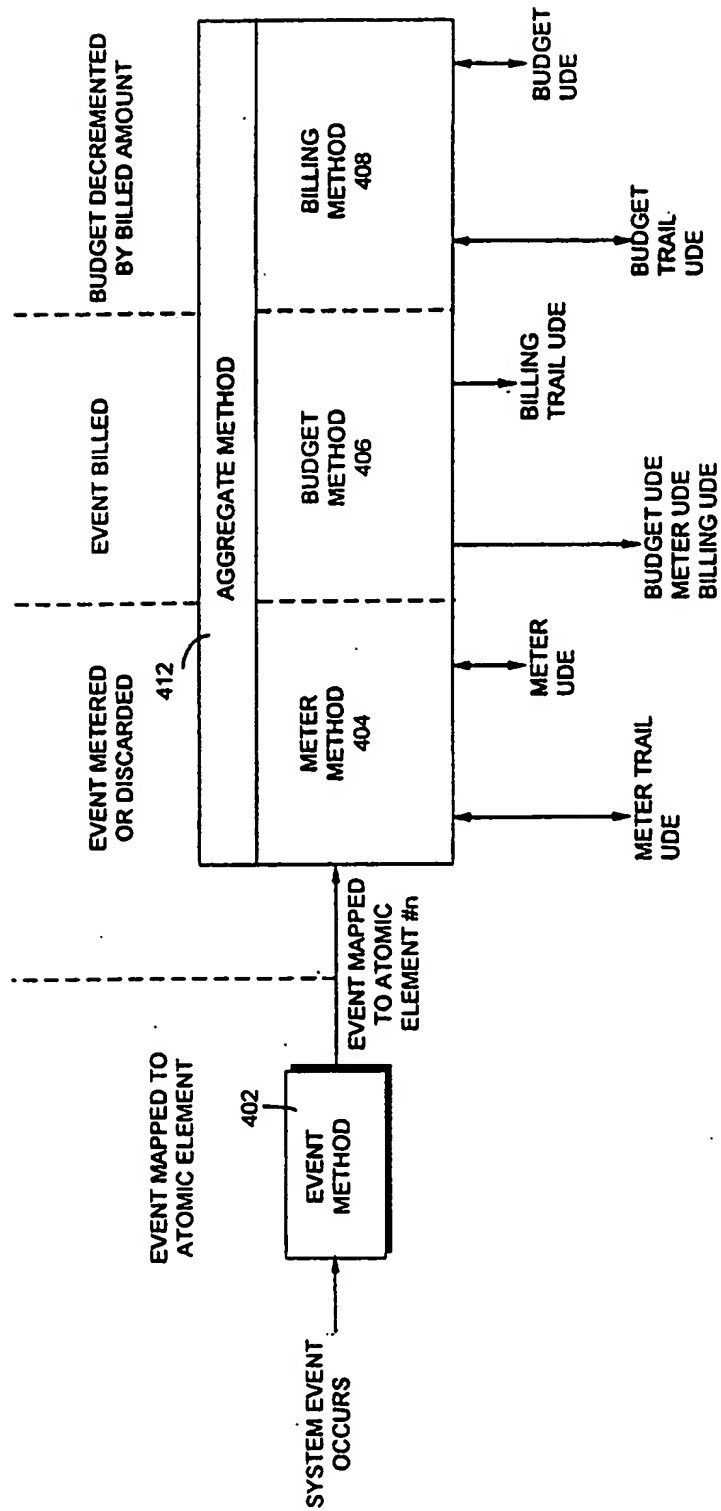
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FIG. 46

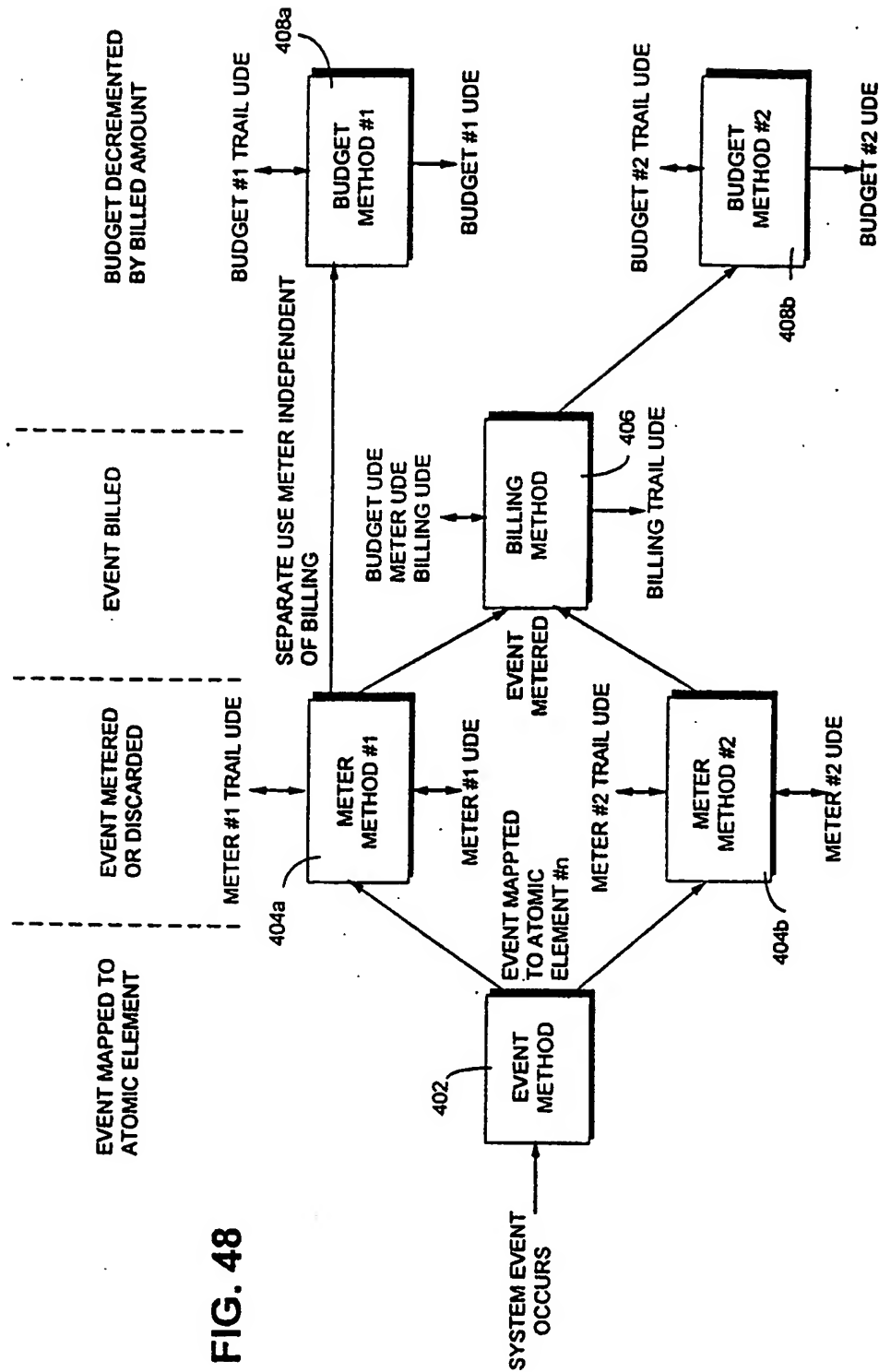


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FIG. 47



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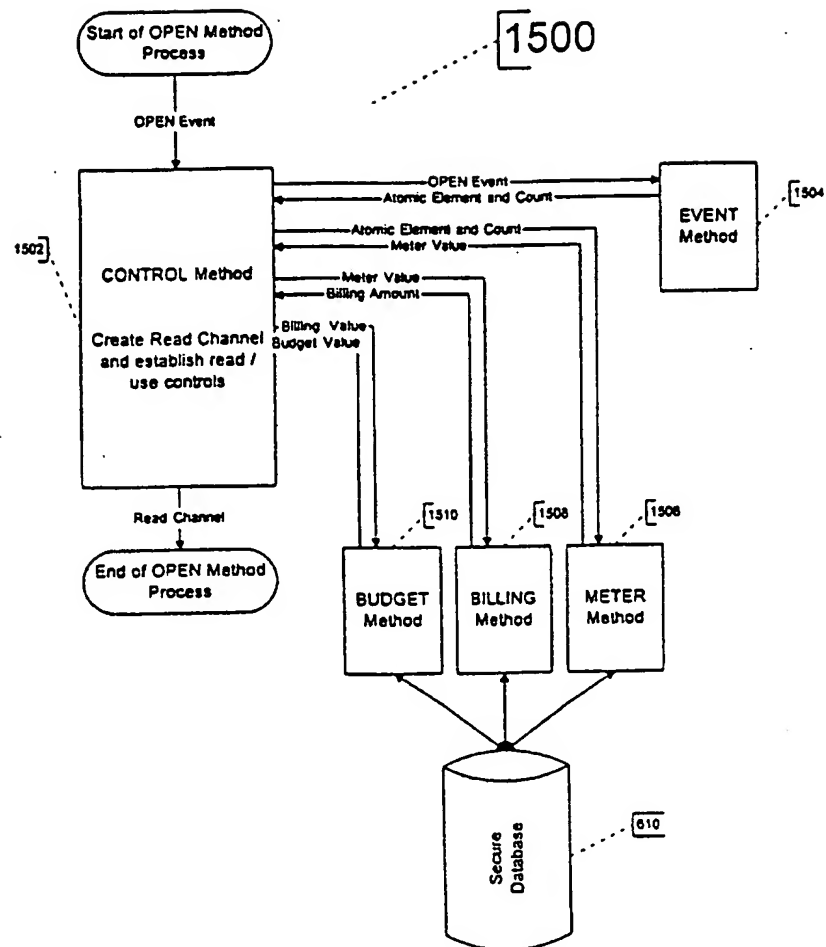


Figure 49

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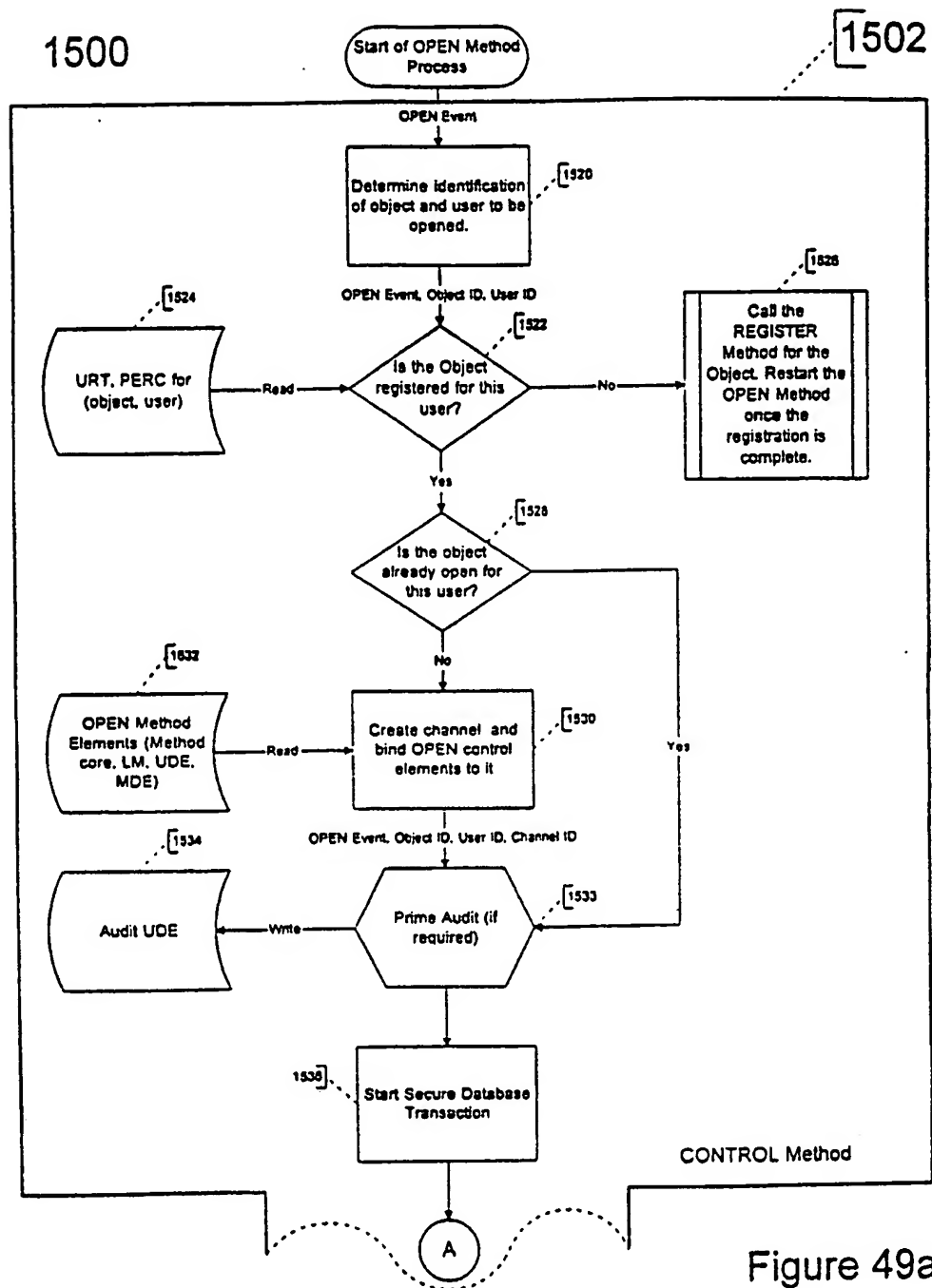


Figure 49a

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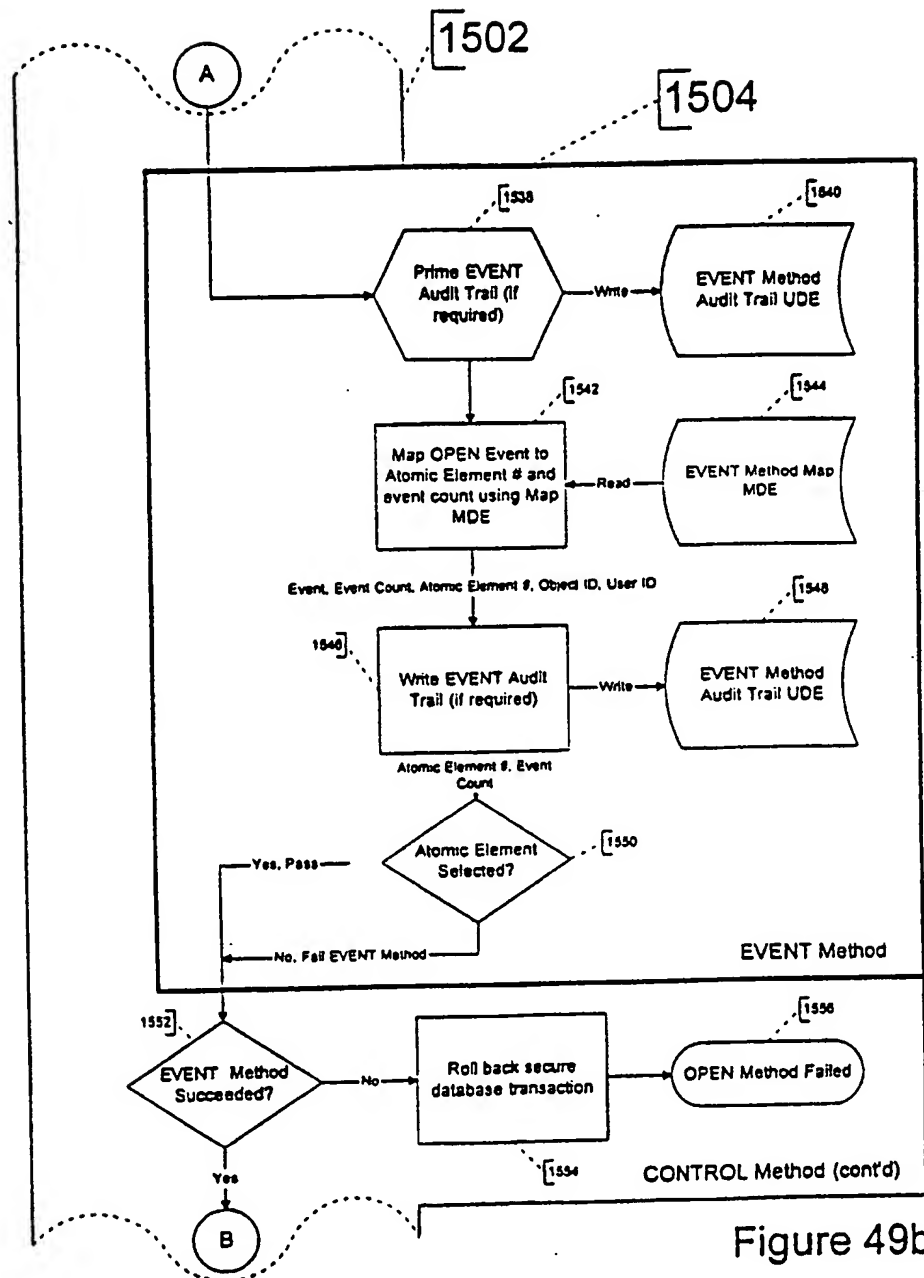


Figure 49b

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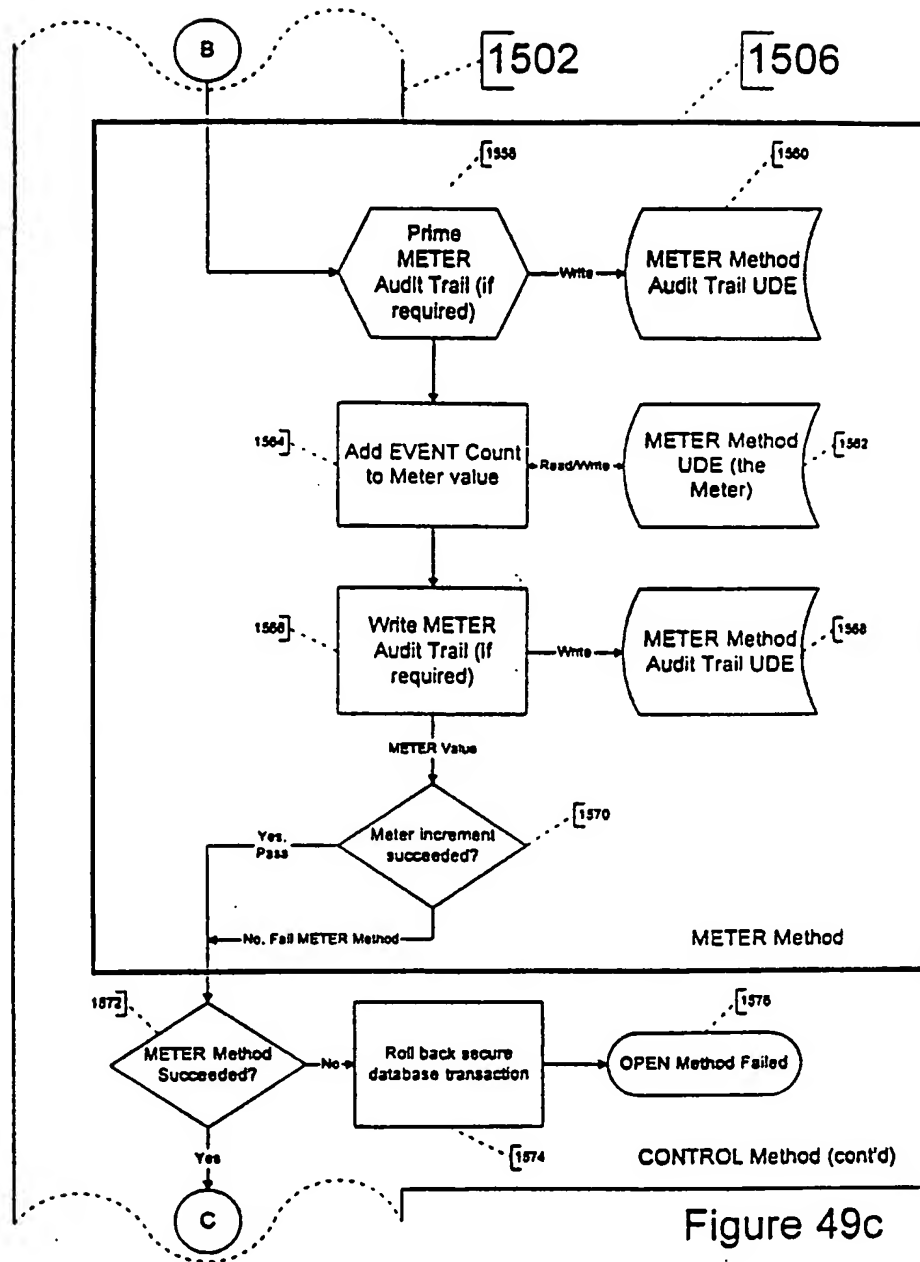
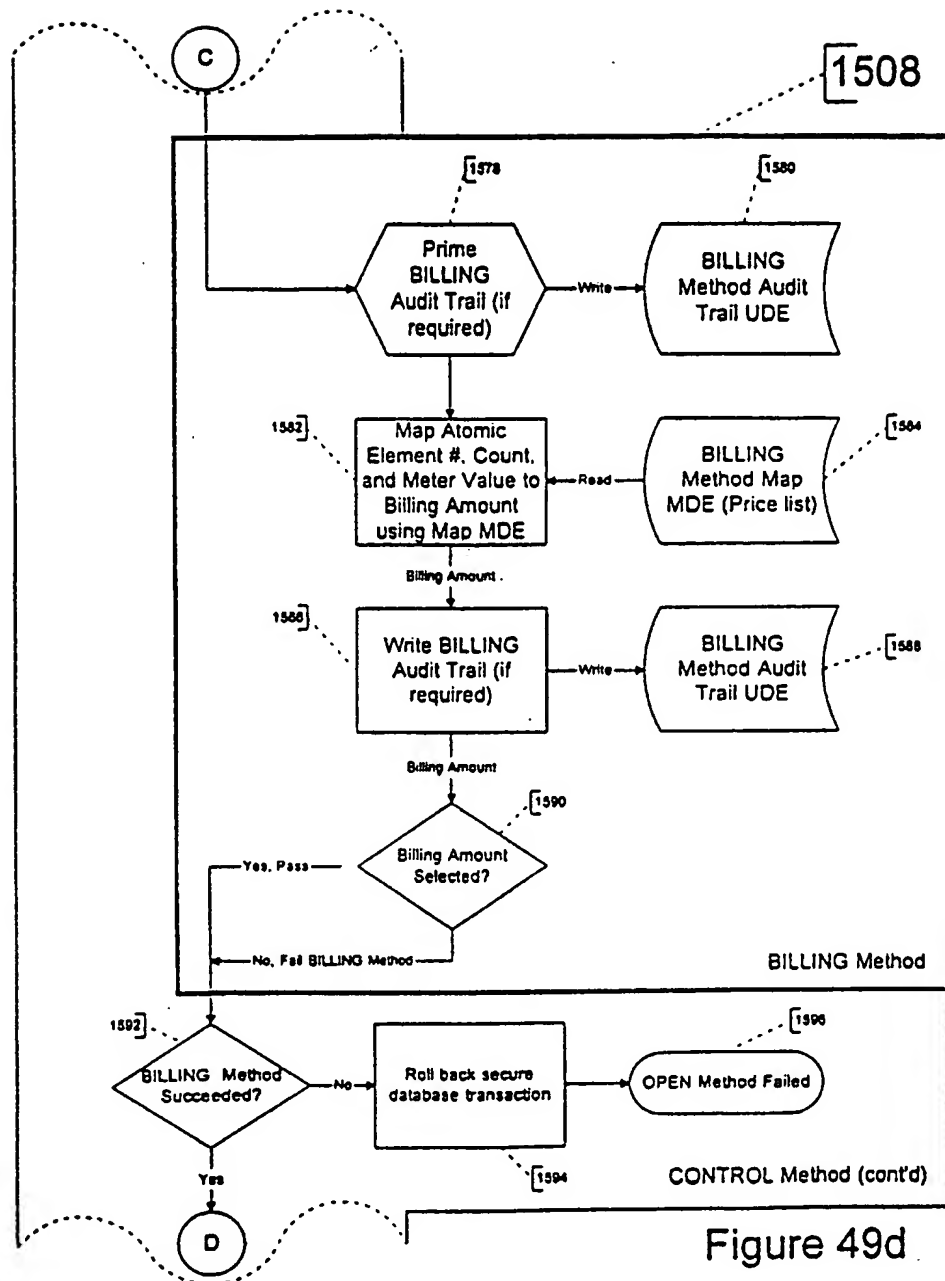
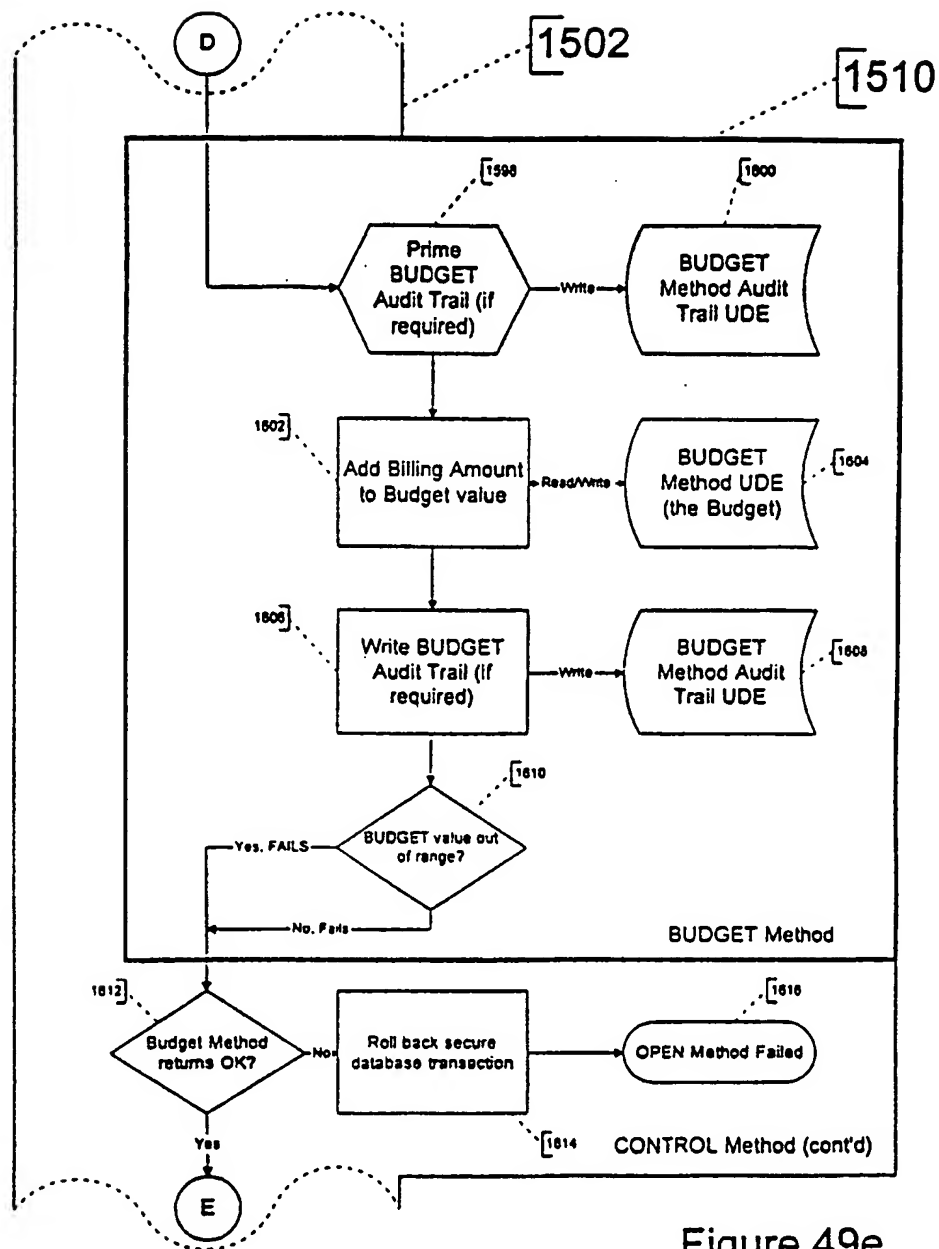


Figure 49c

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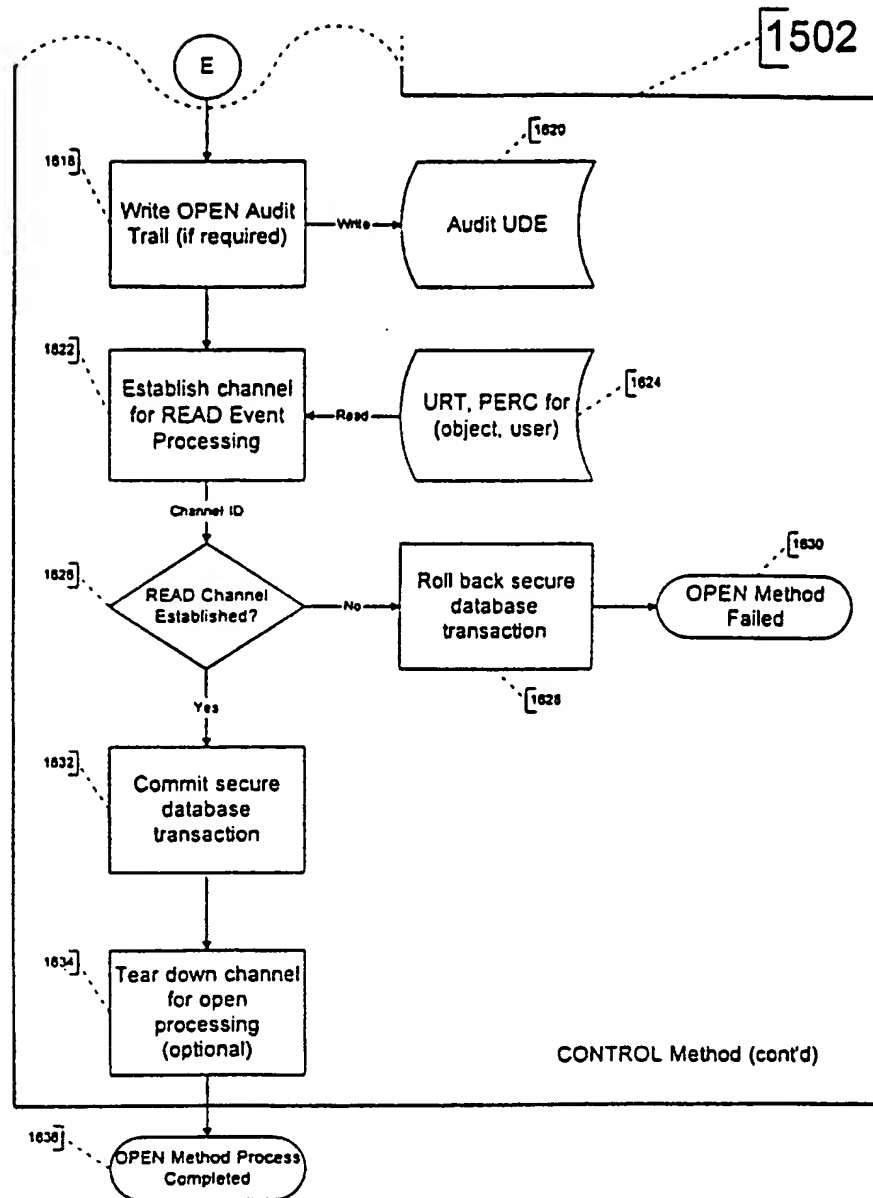


Figure 49f

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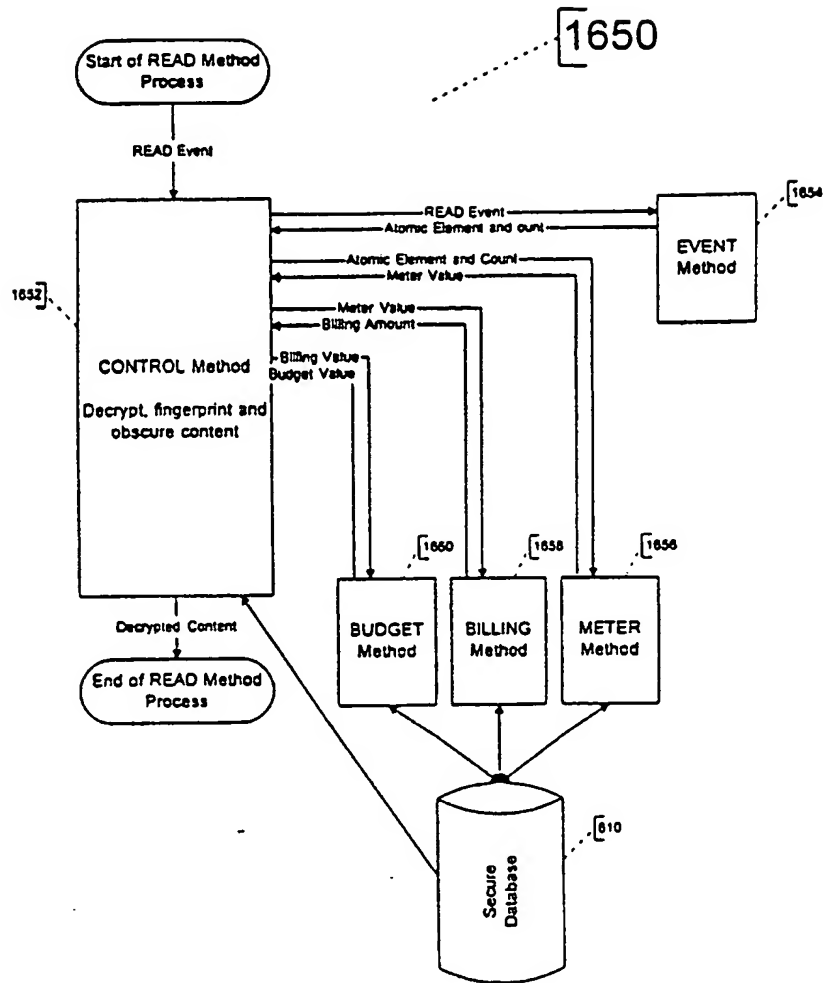


Figure 50

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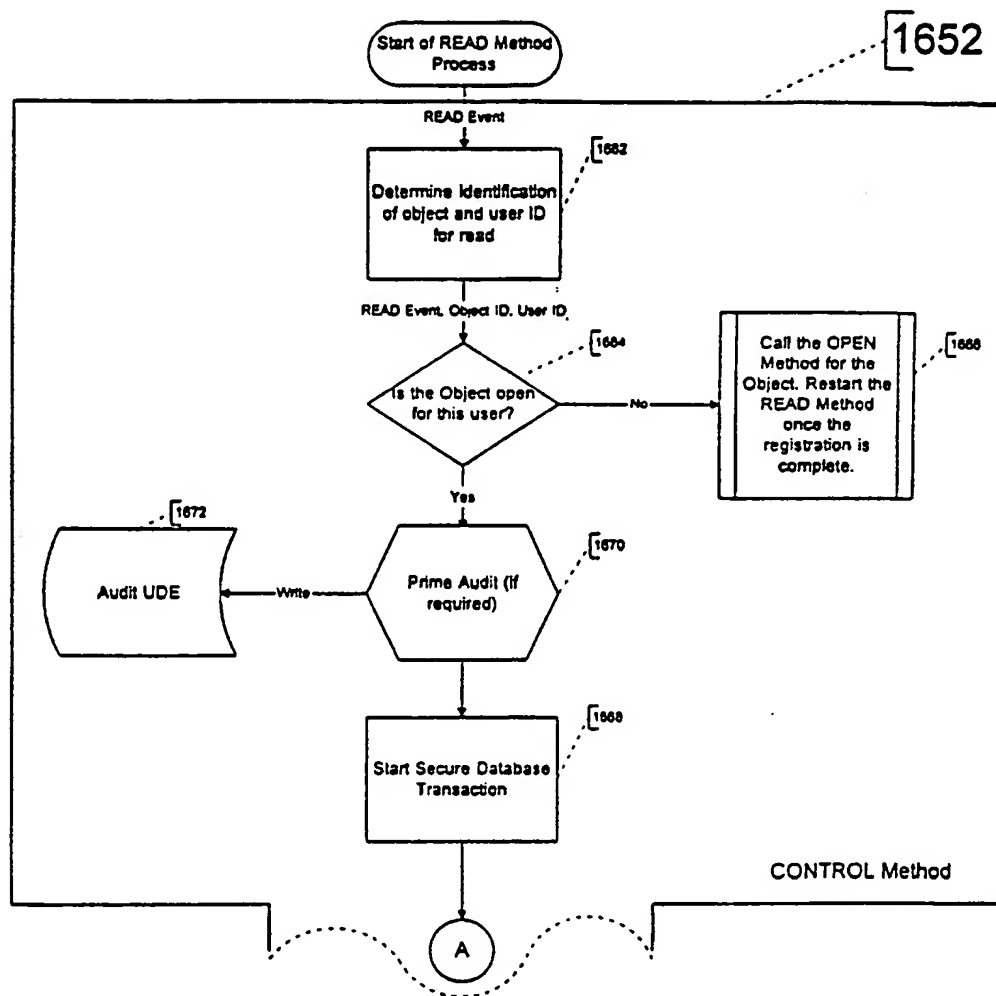


Figure 50a

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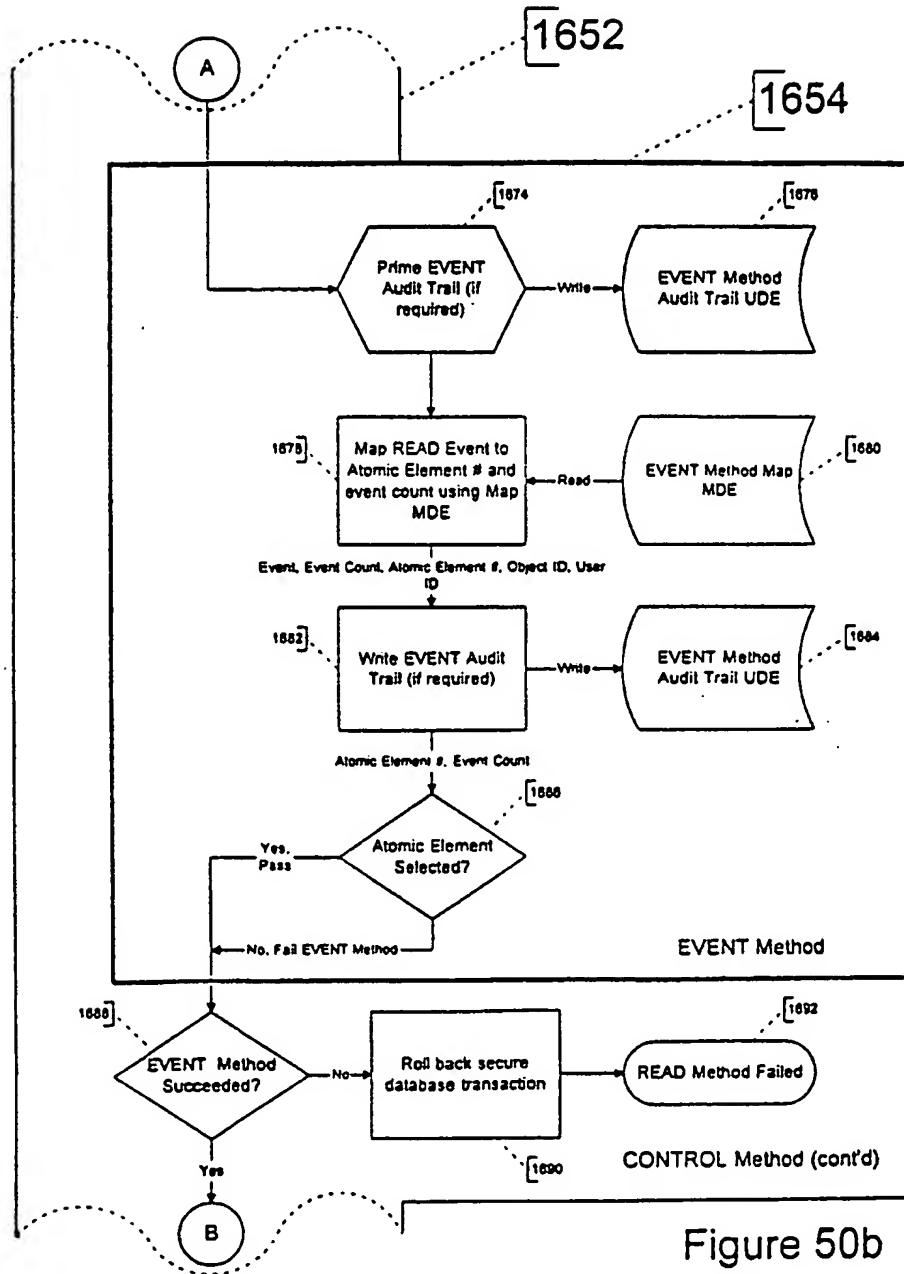
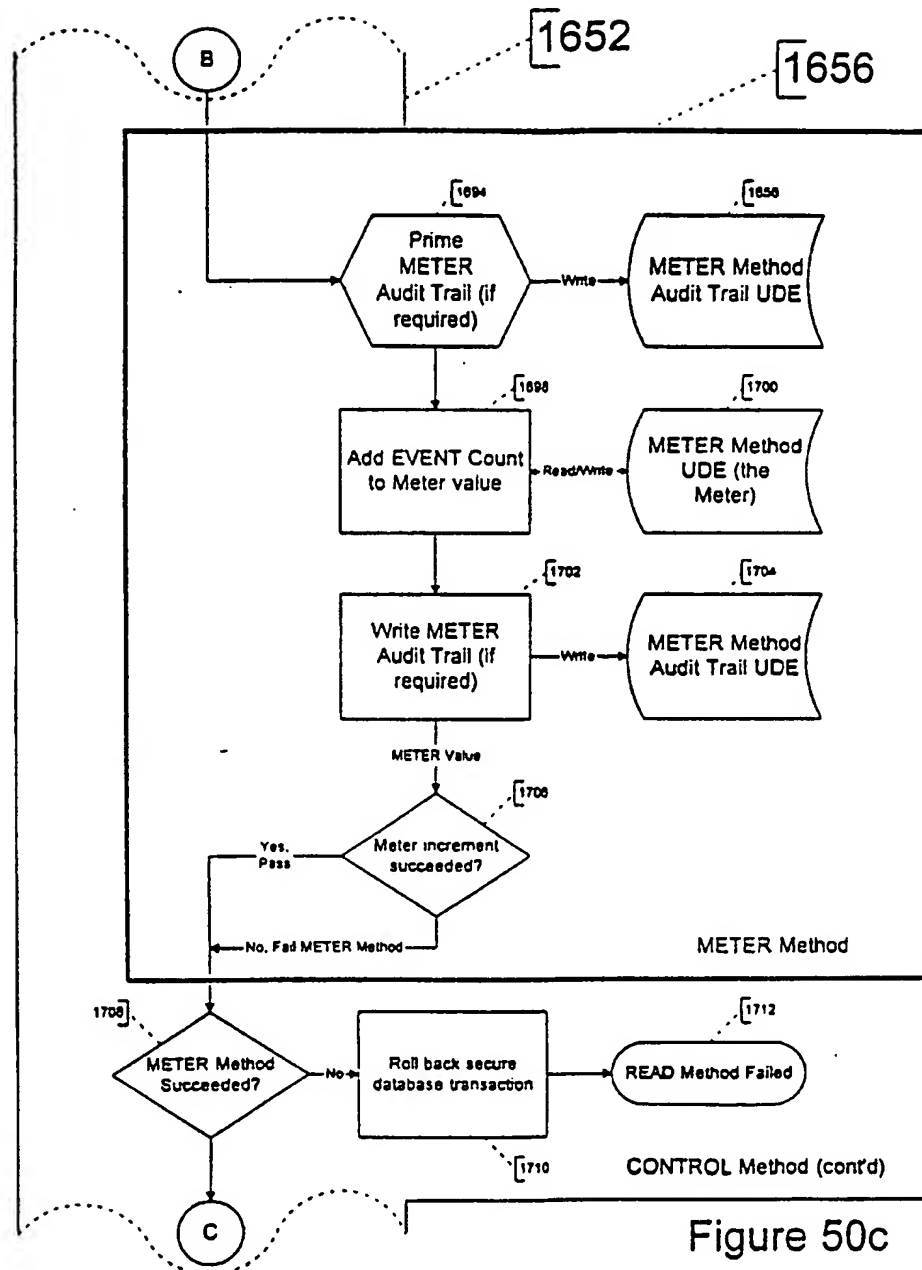
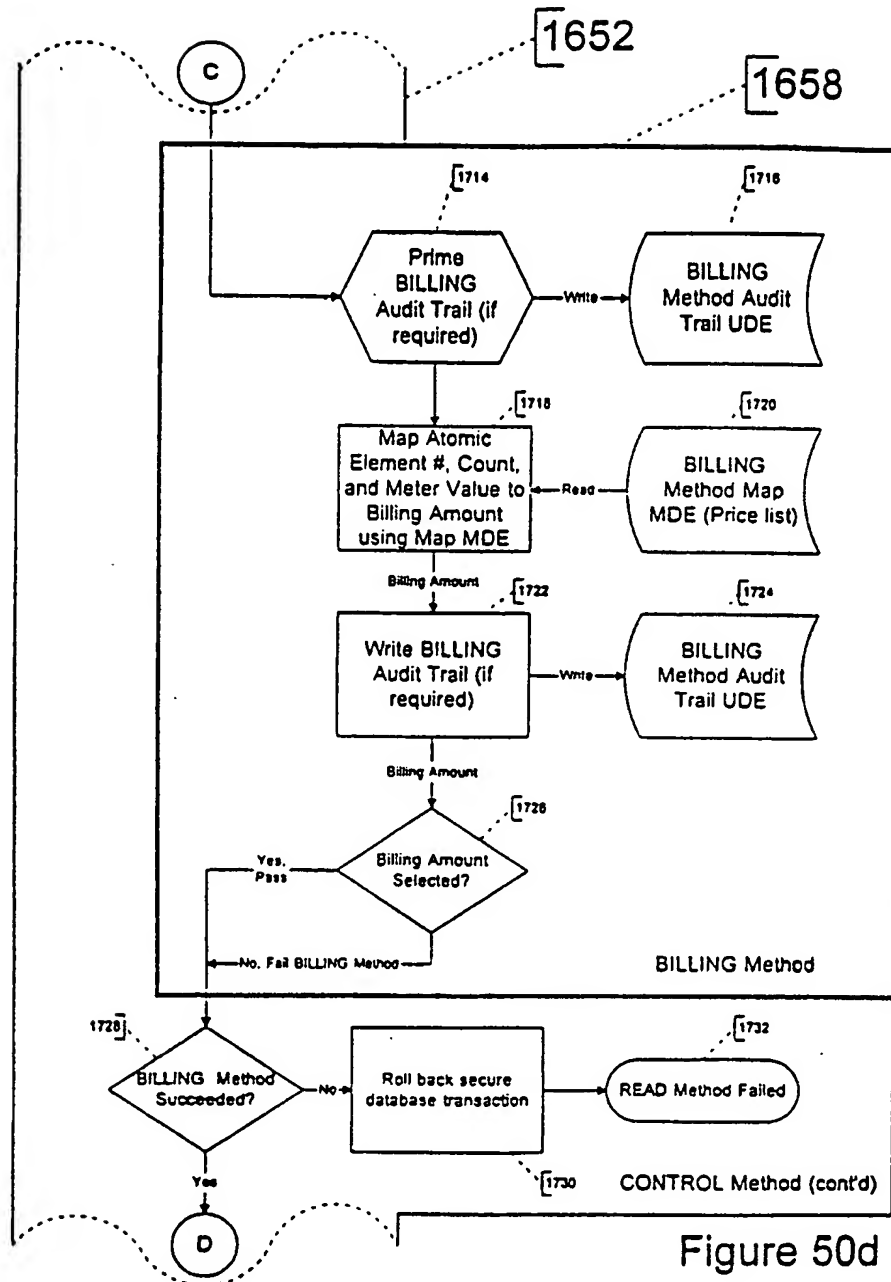


Figure 50b

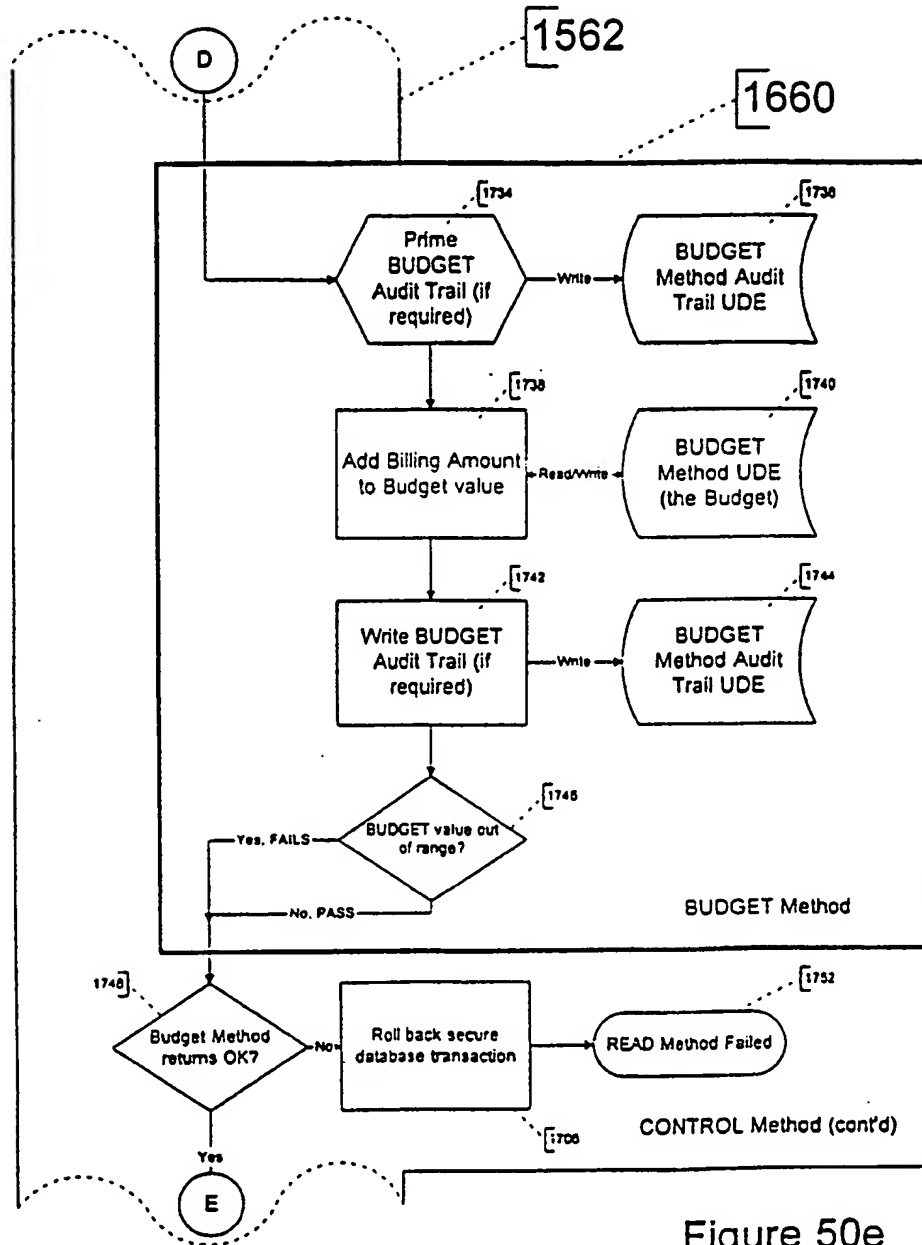
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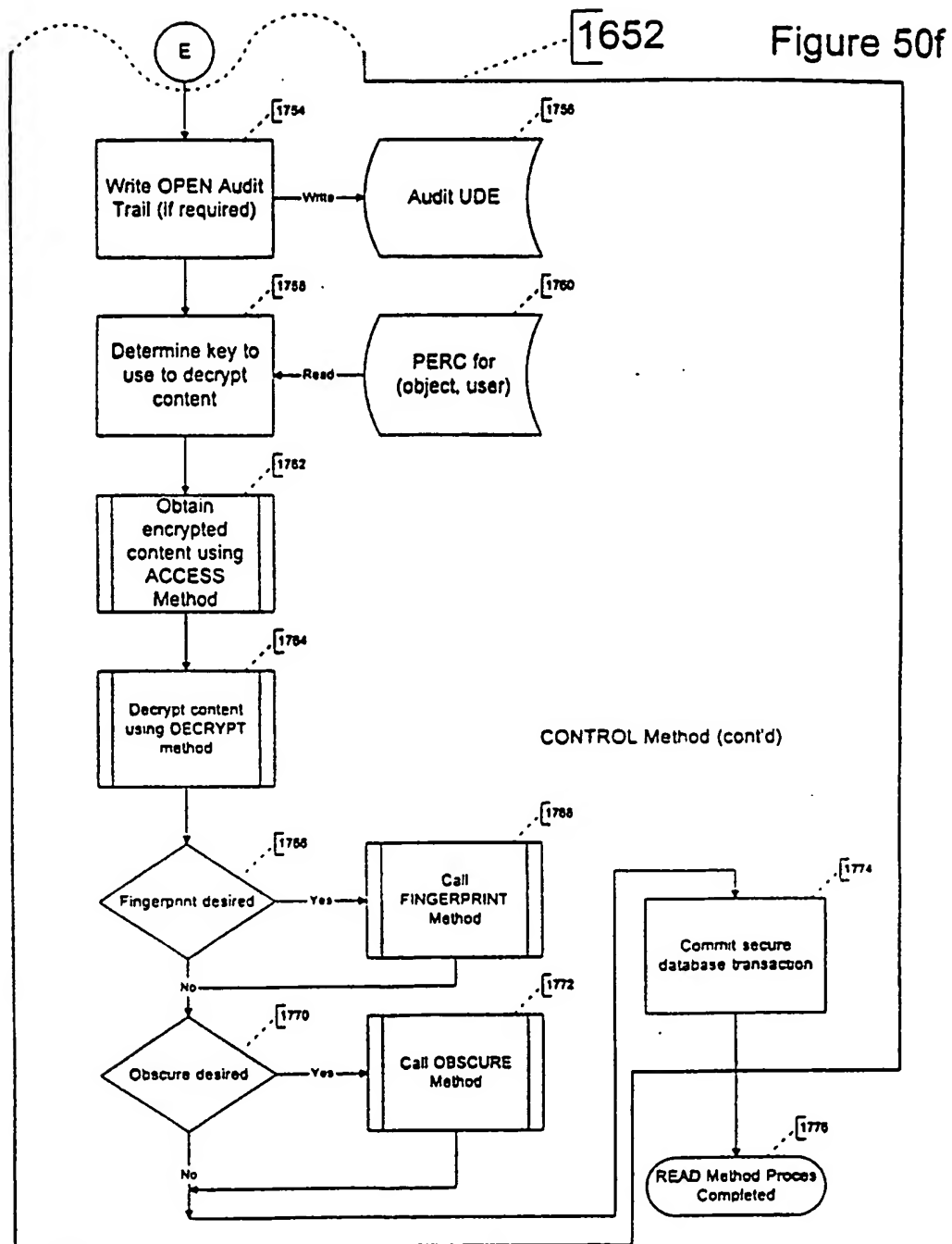
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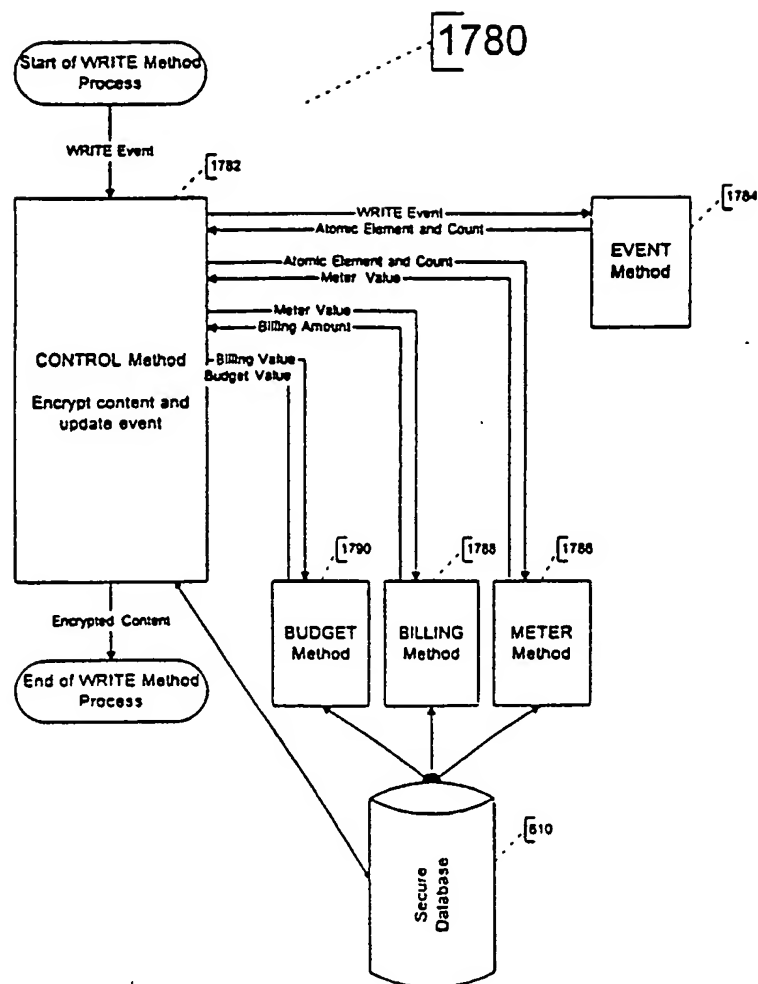


Figure 51

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1780

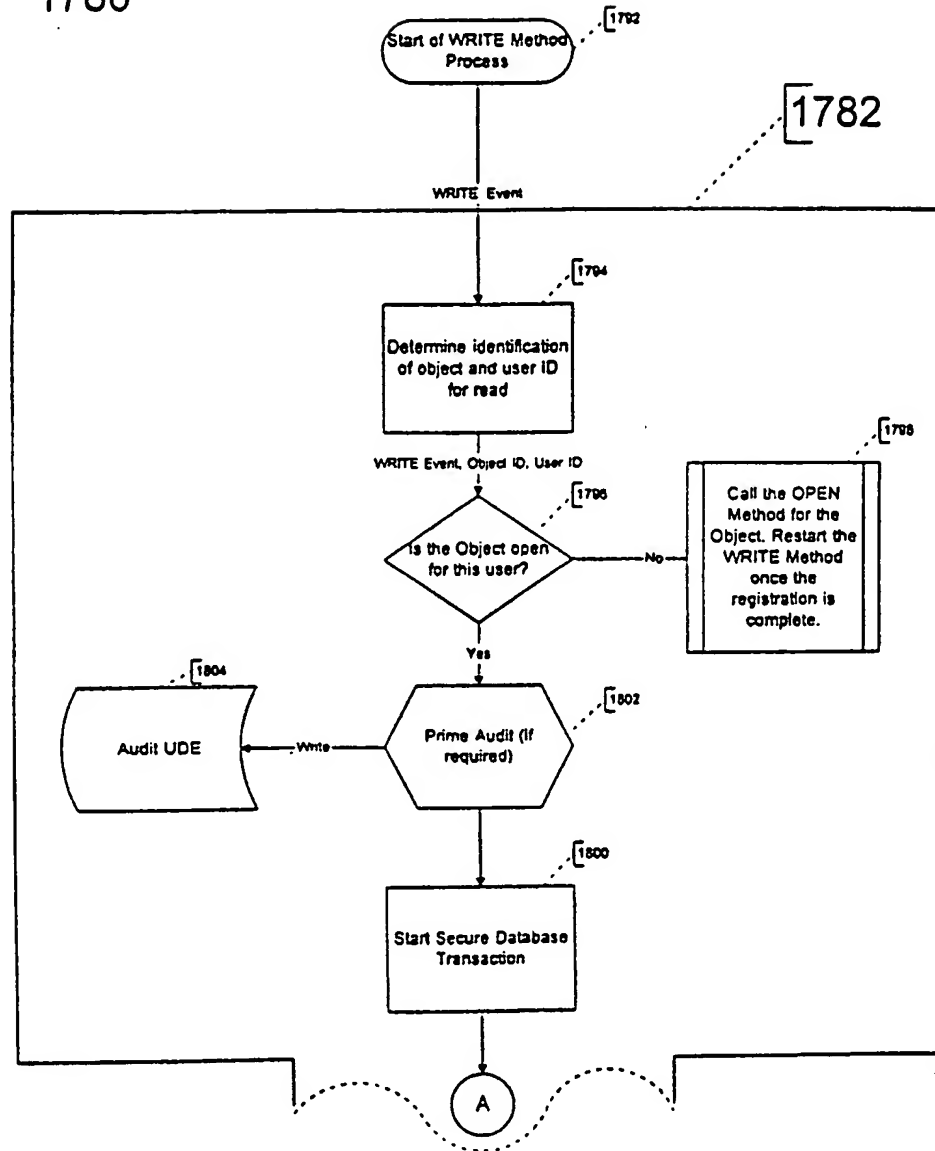


Figure 51a

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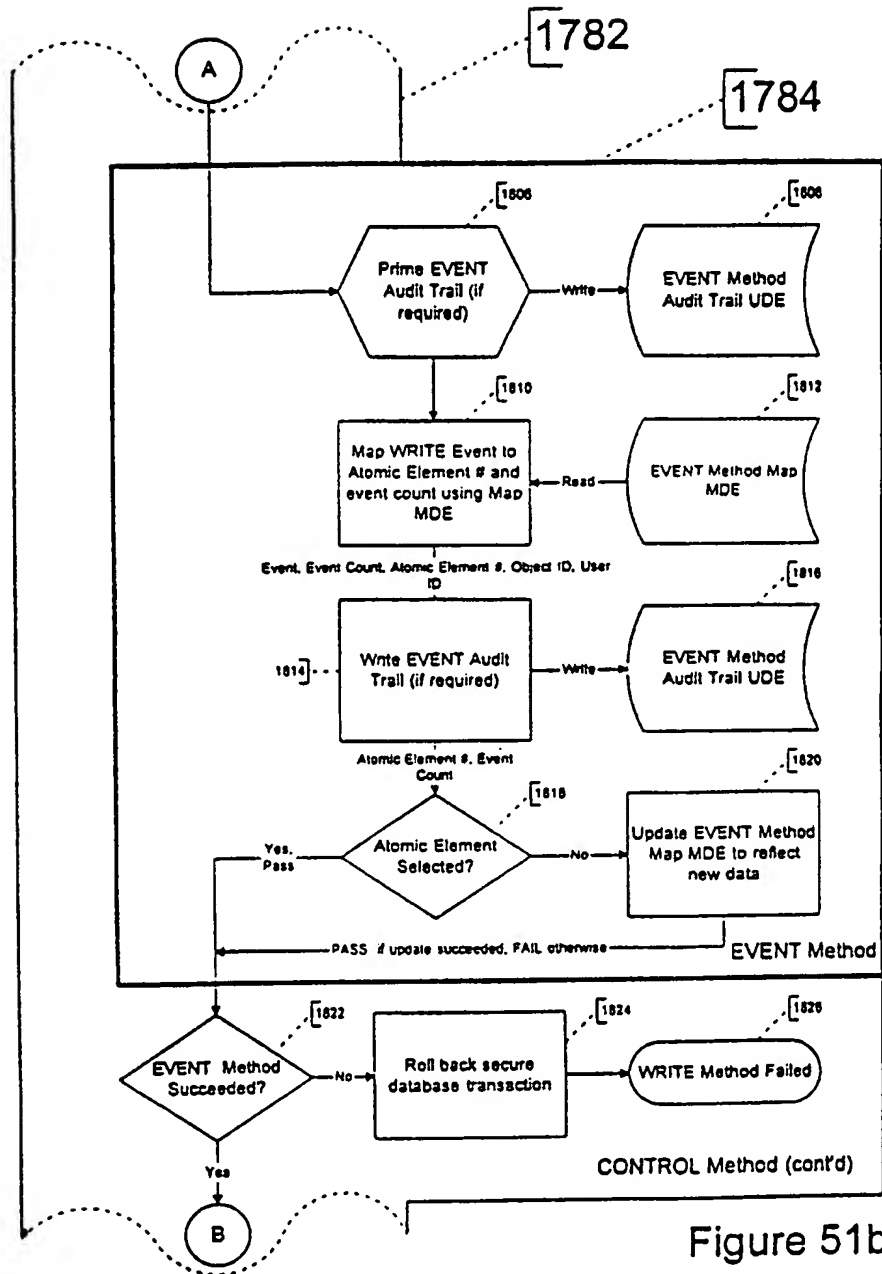
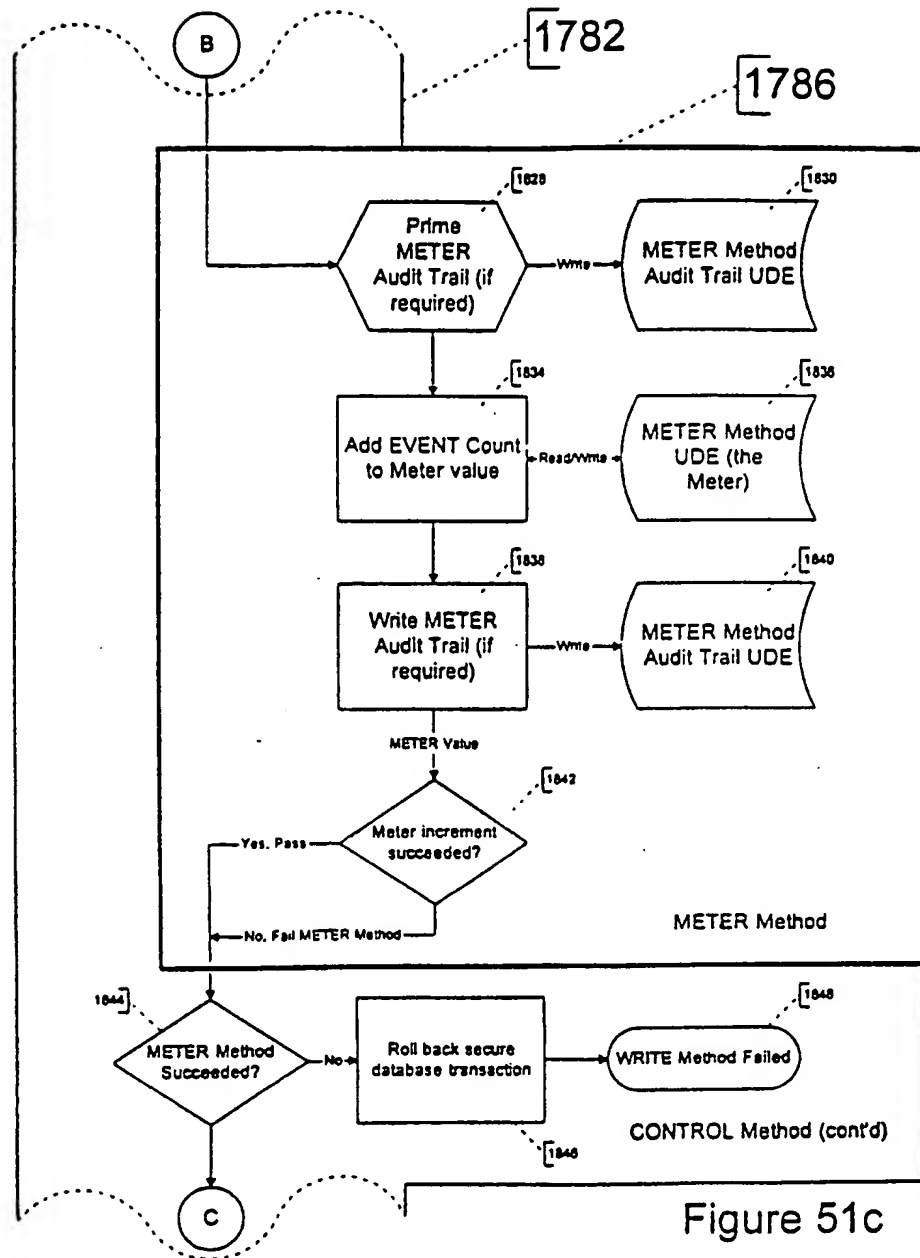


Figure 51b

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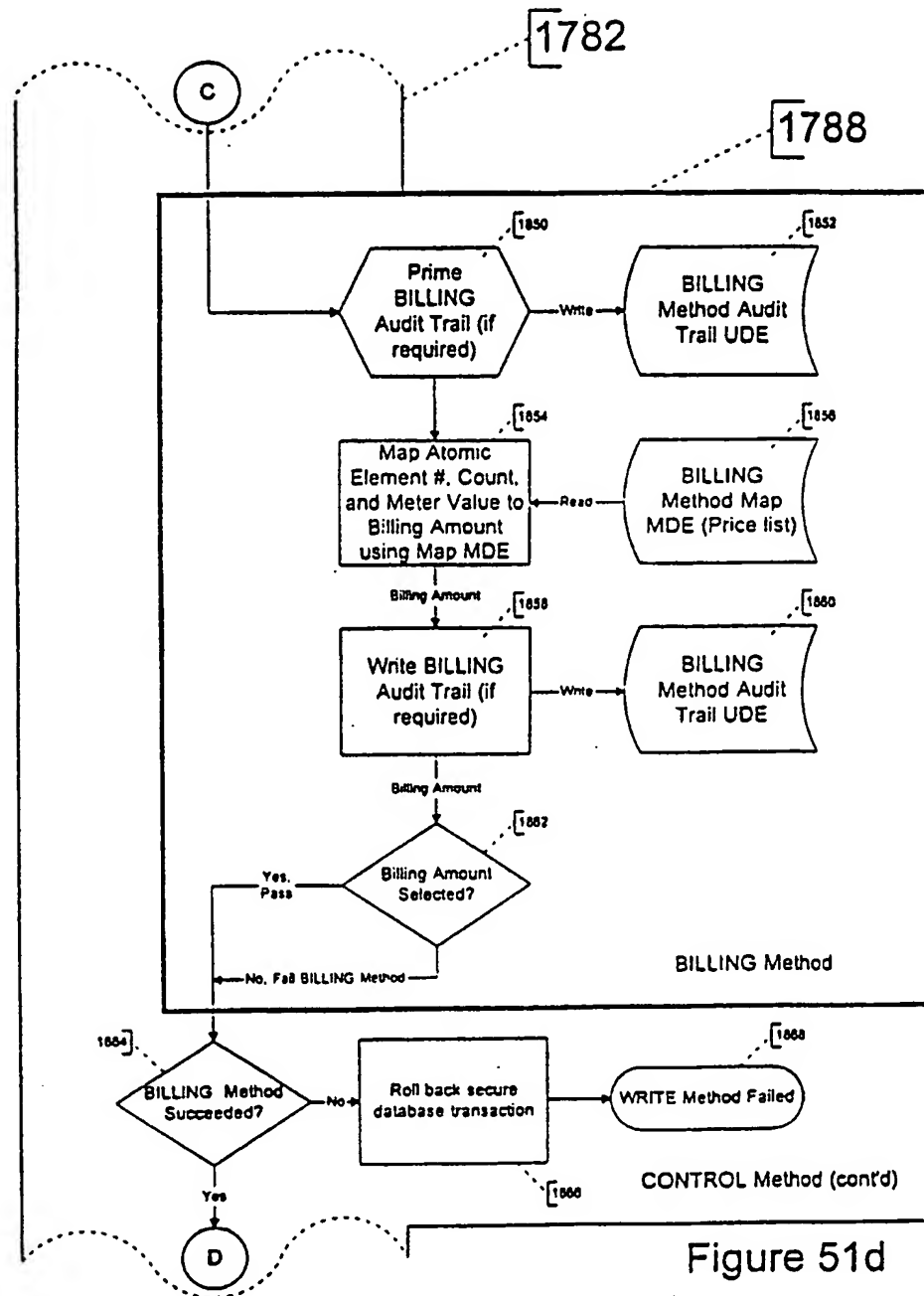


Figure 51d

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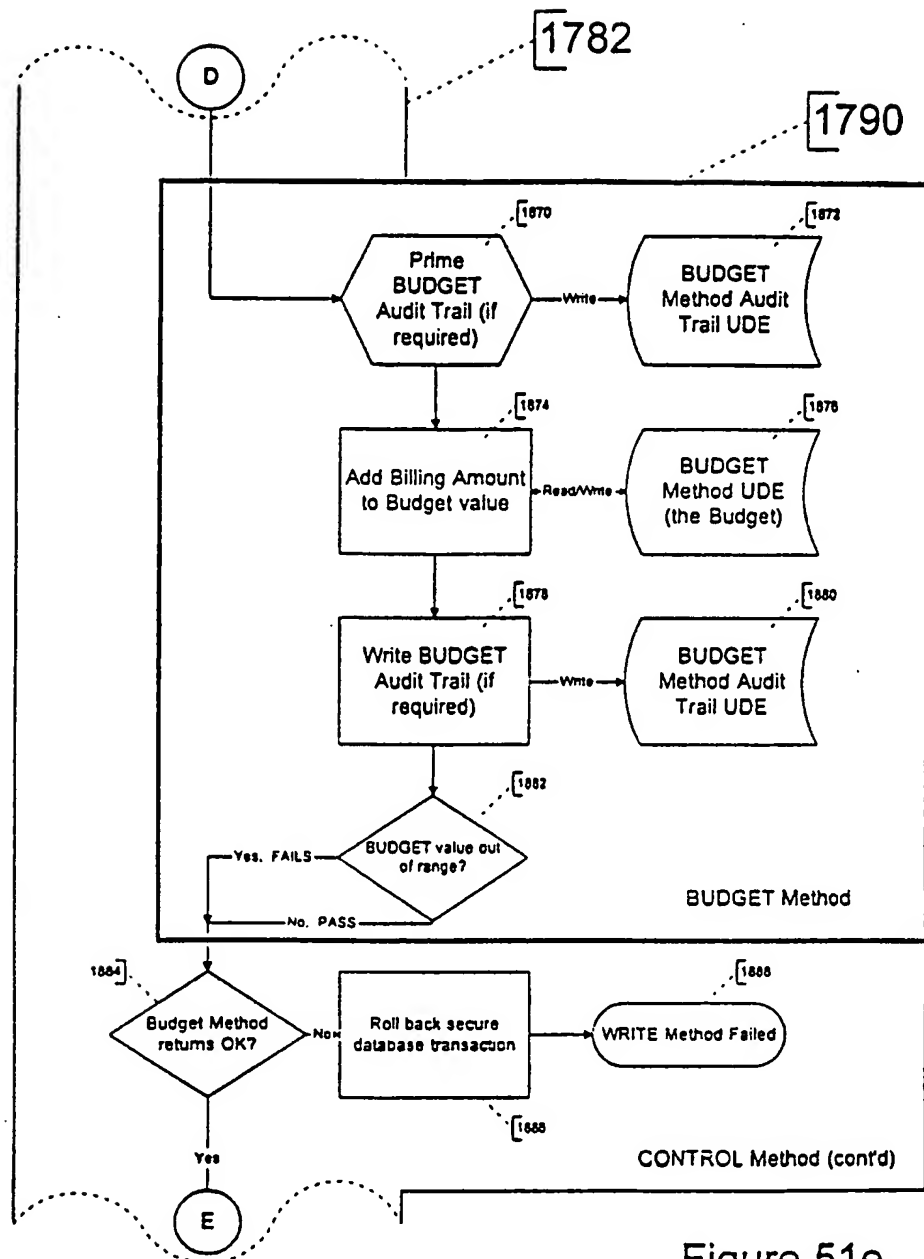


Figure 51e

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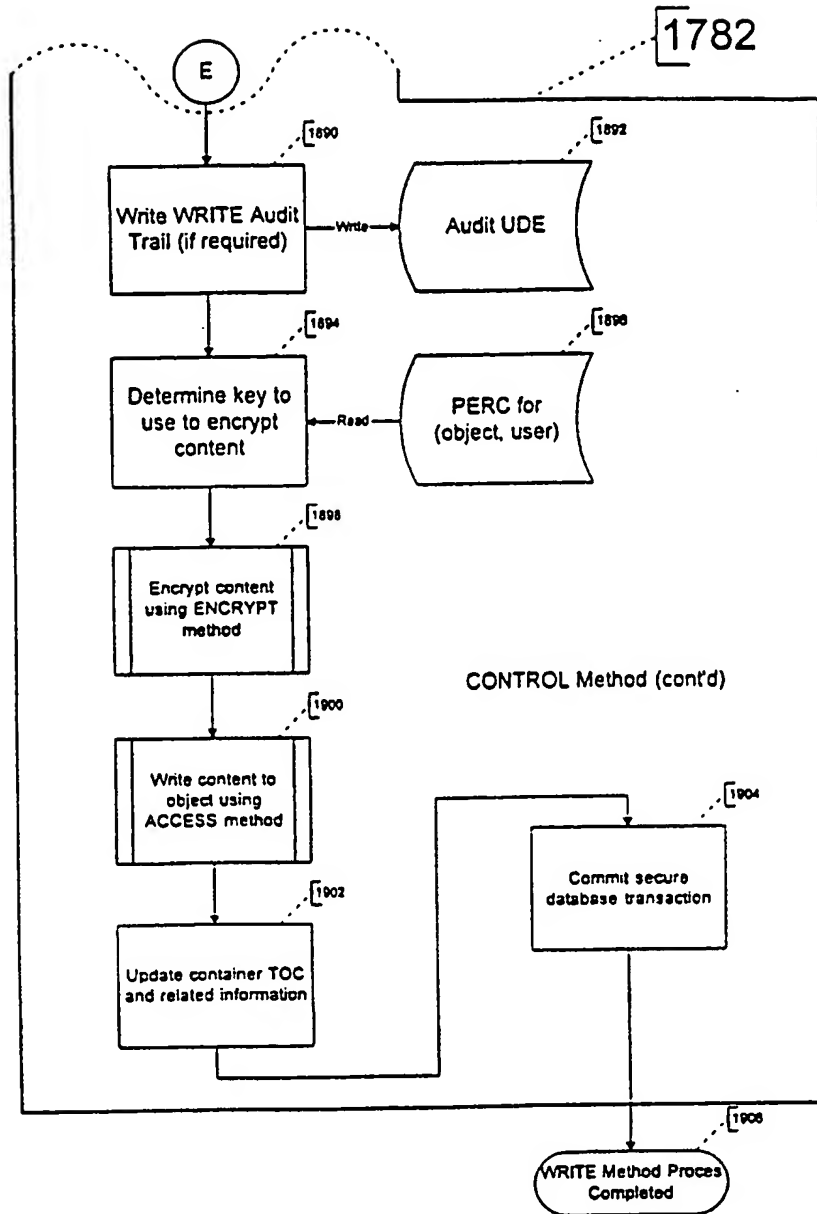


Figure 51f

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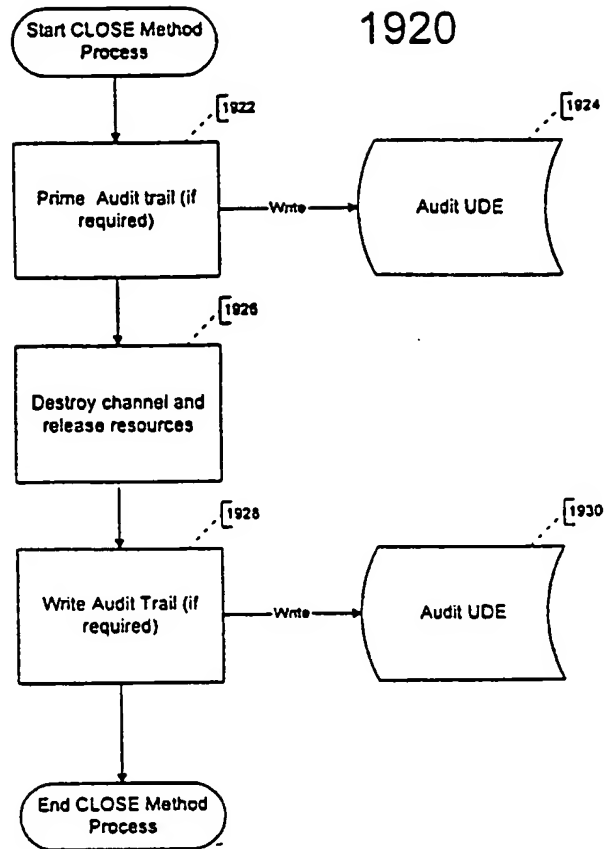


Figure 52

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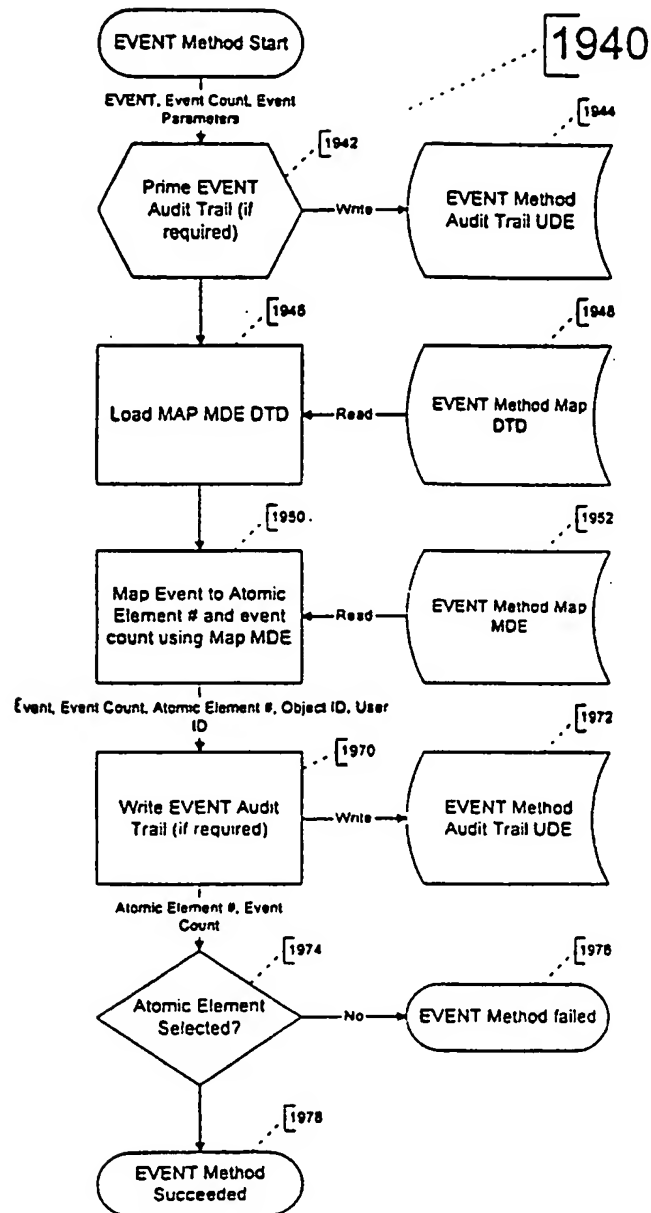


Figure 53a

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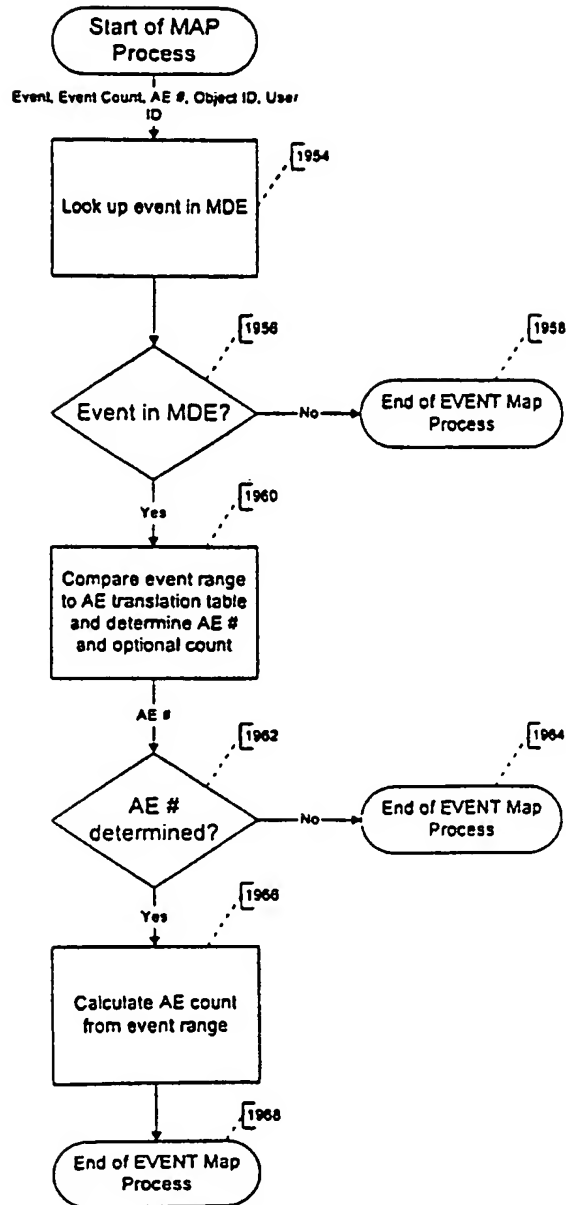


Figure 53b

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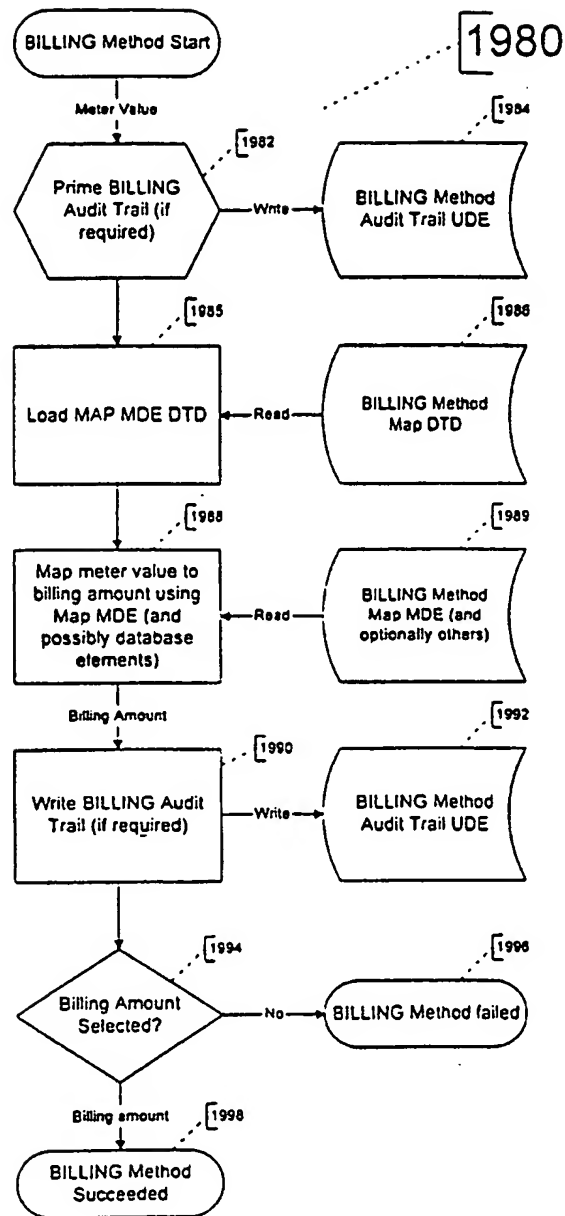


Figure 53c

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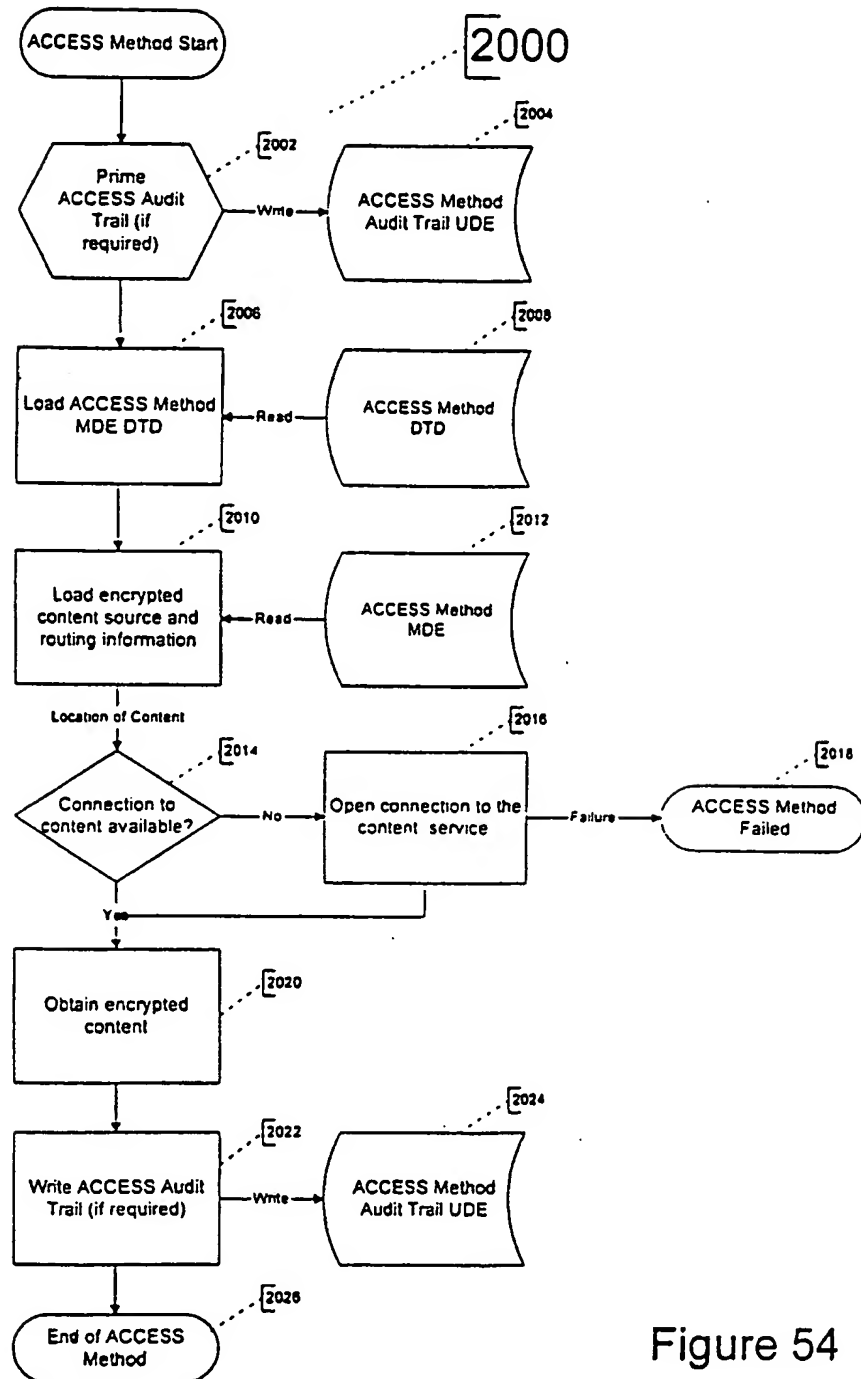


Figure 54

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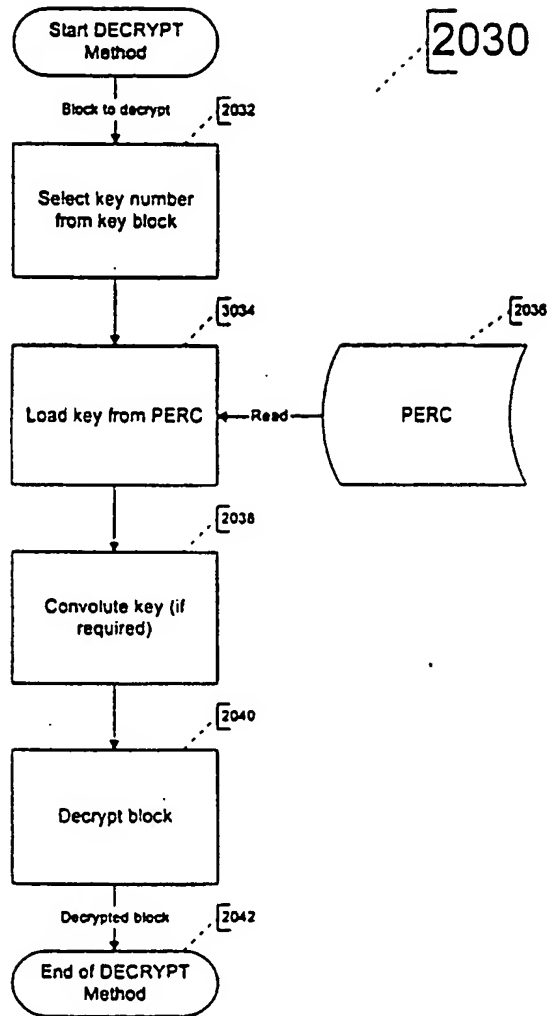


Figure 55a

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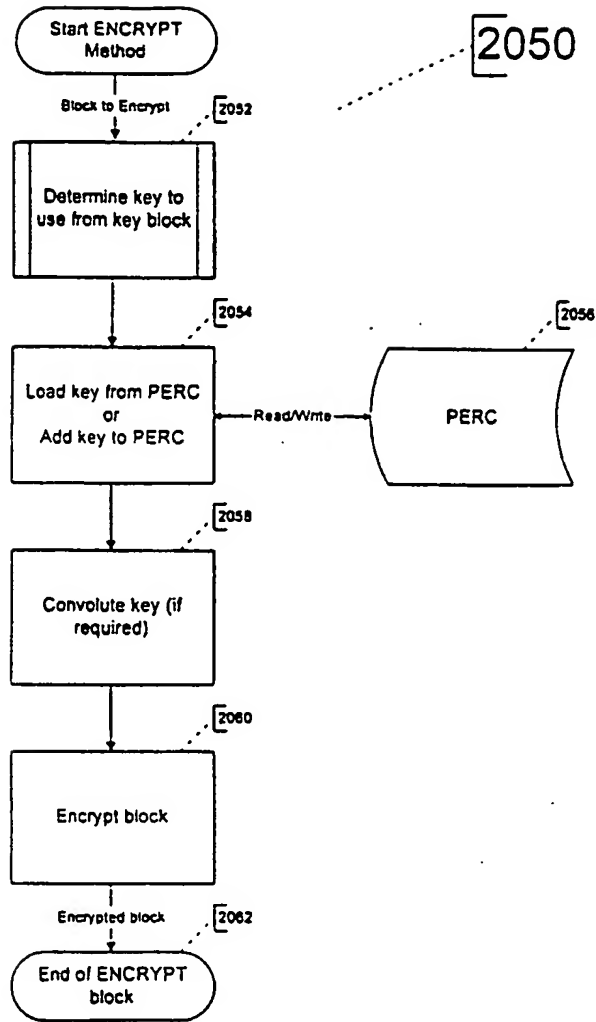


Figure 55b

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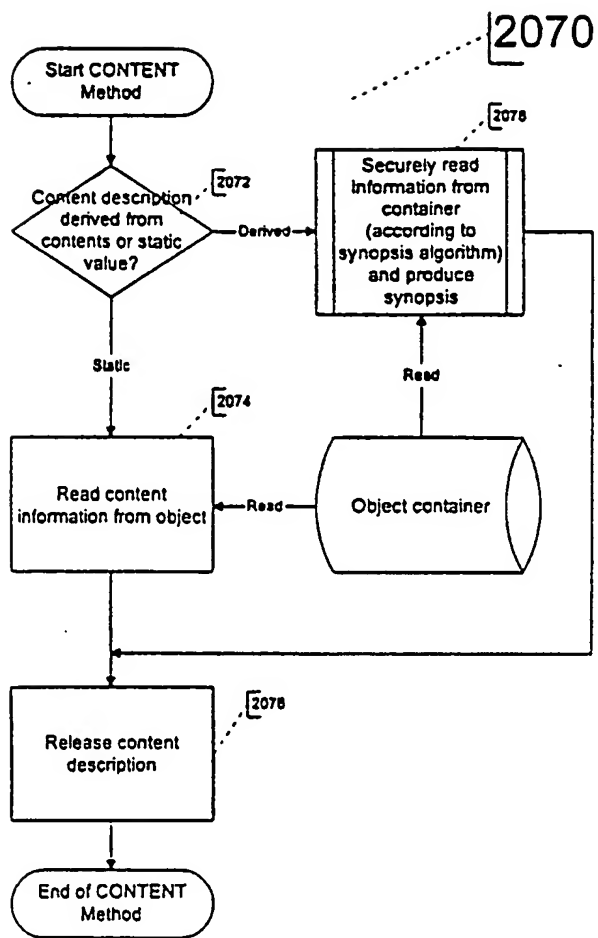


Figure 56

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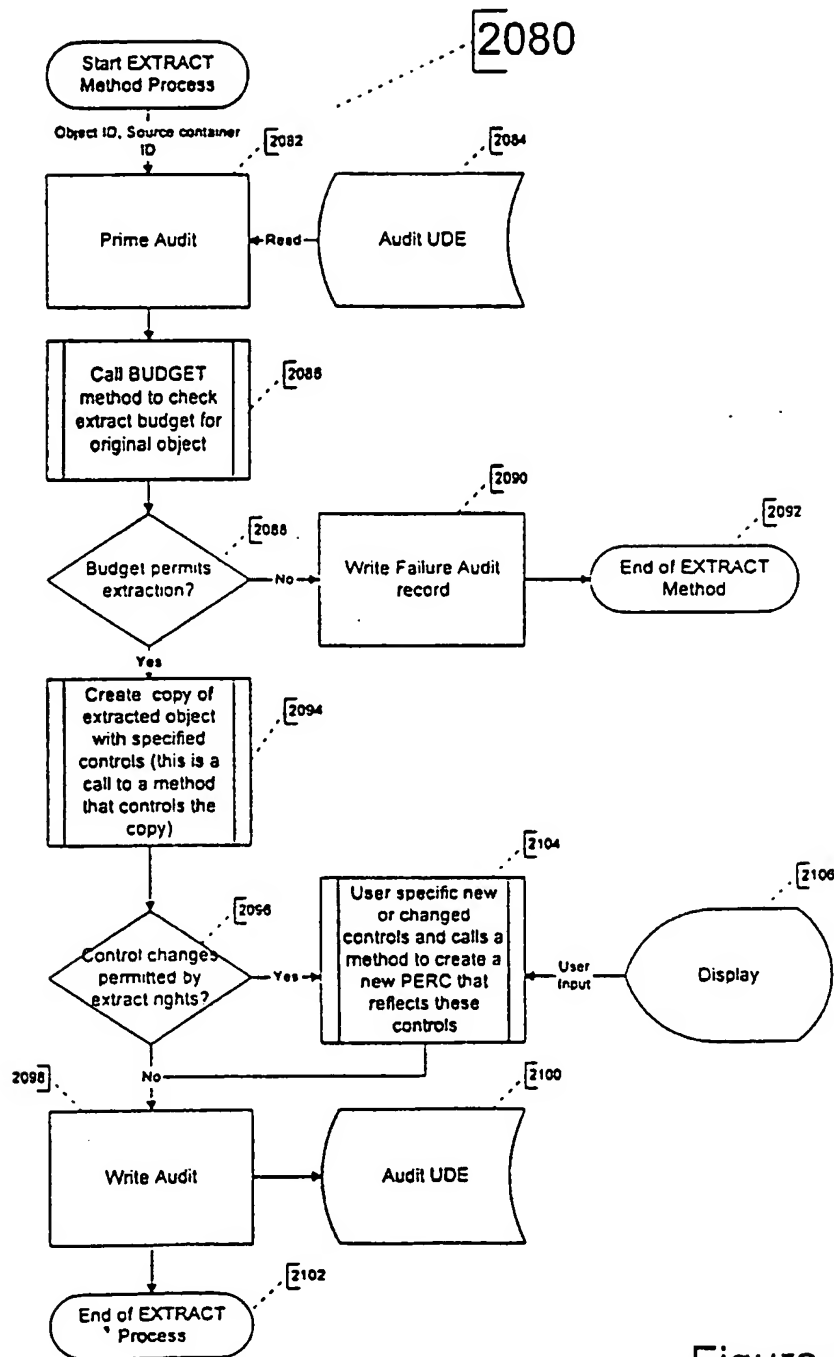


Figure 57a

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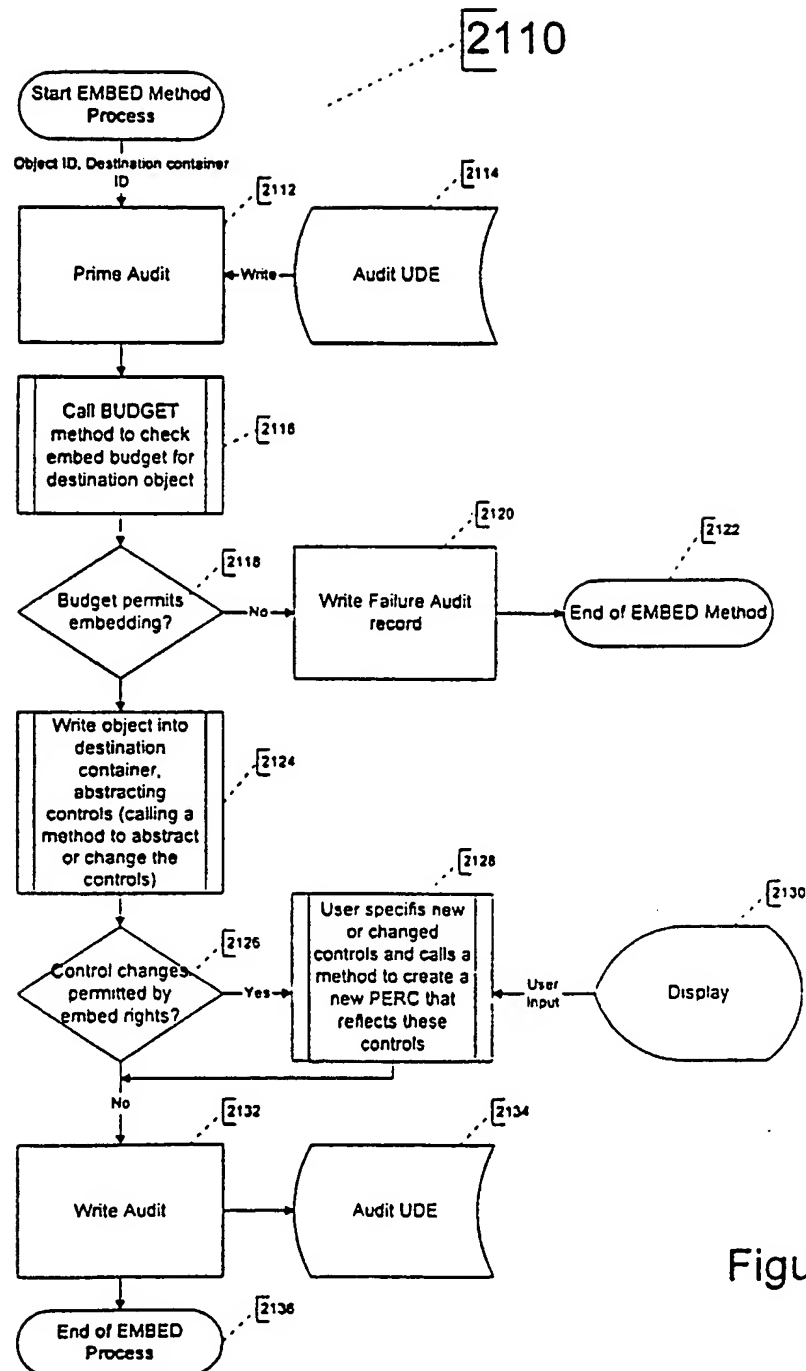


Figure 57b

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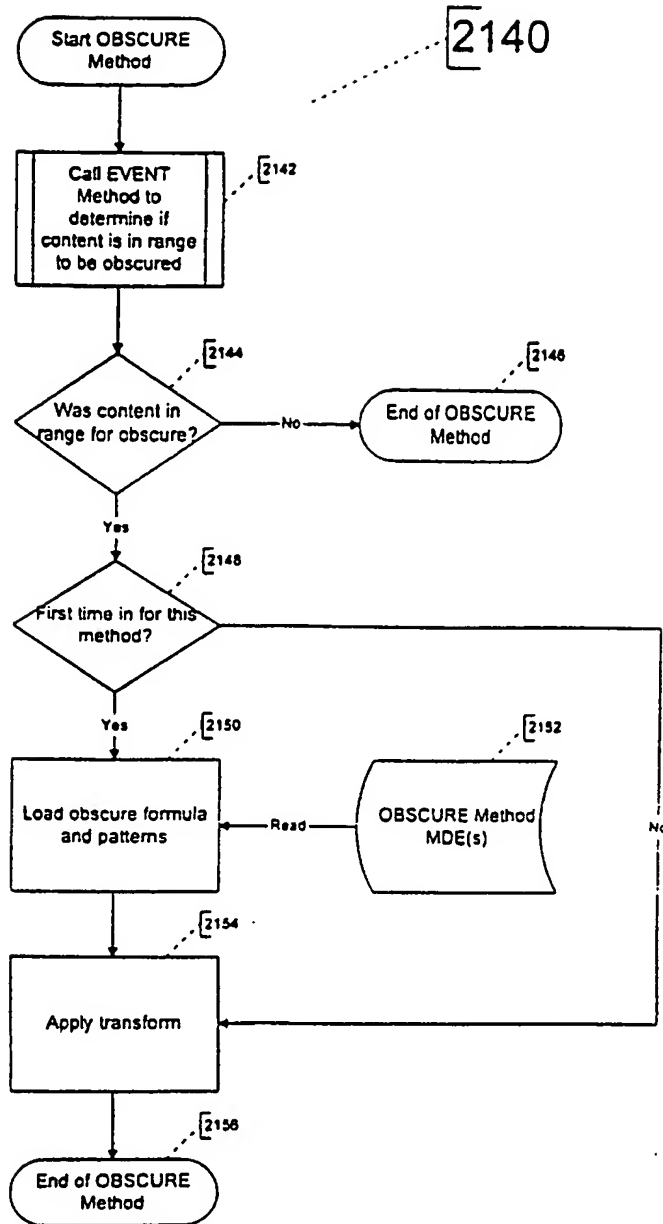


Figure 58a

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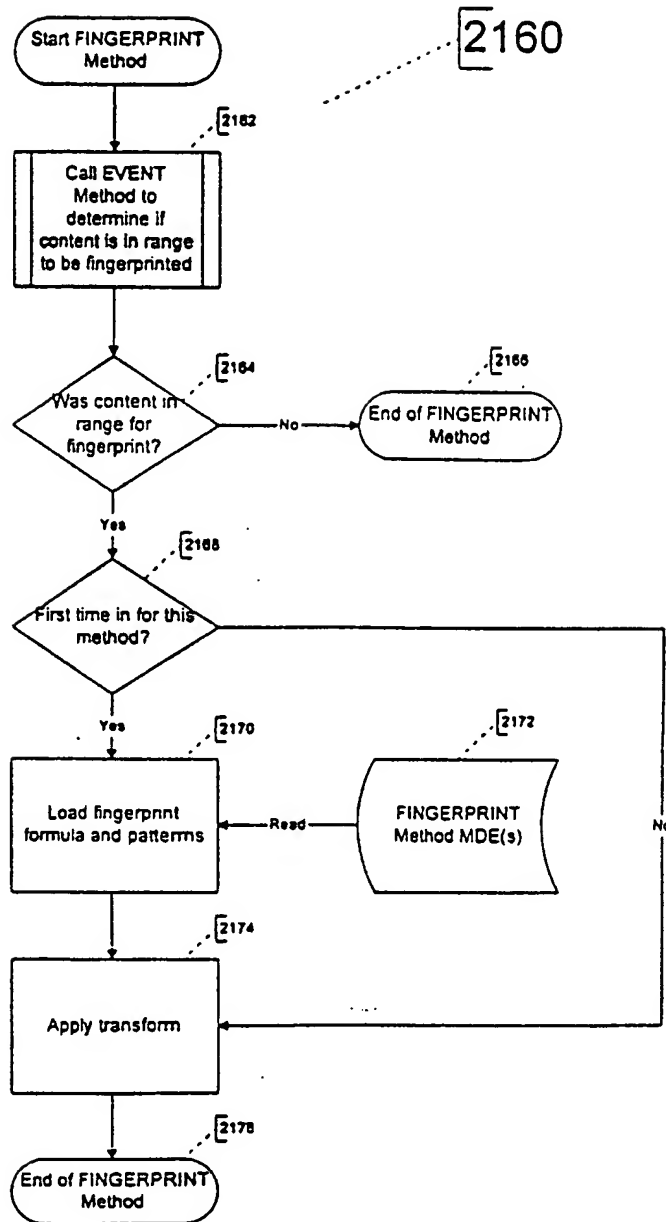


Figure 58b

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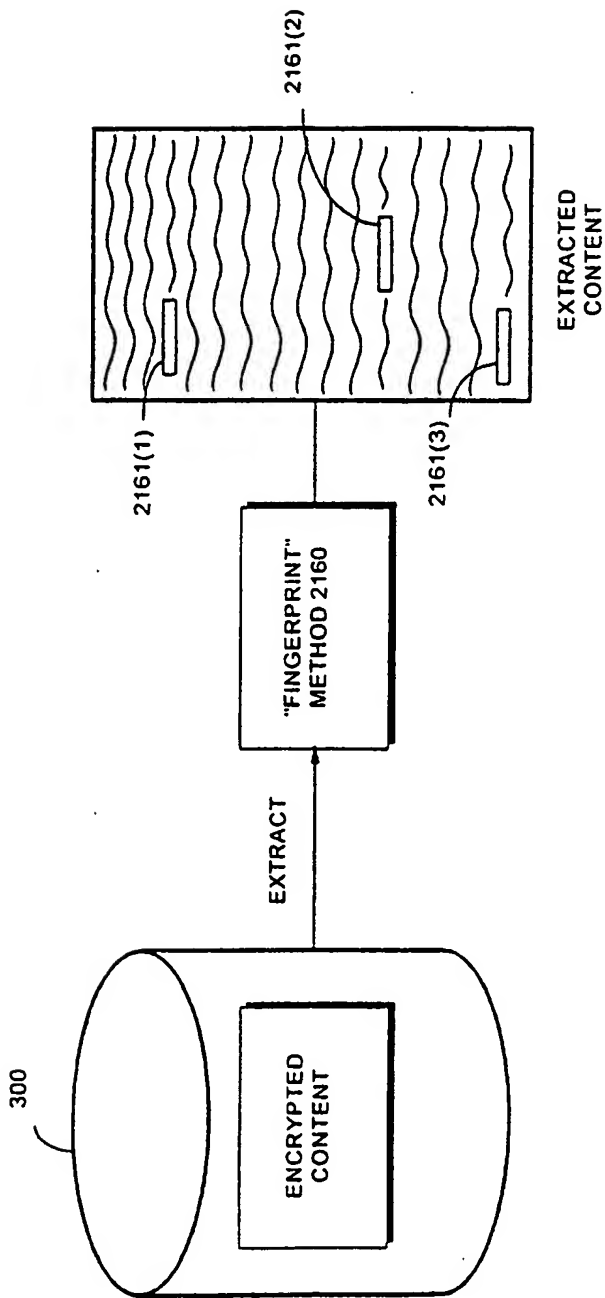


FIG. 58C

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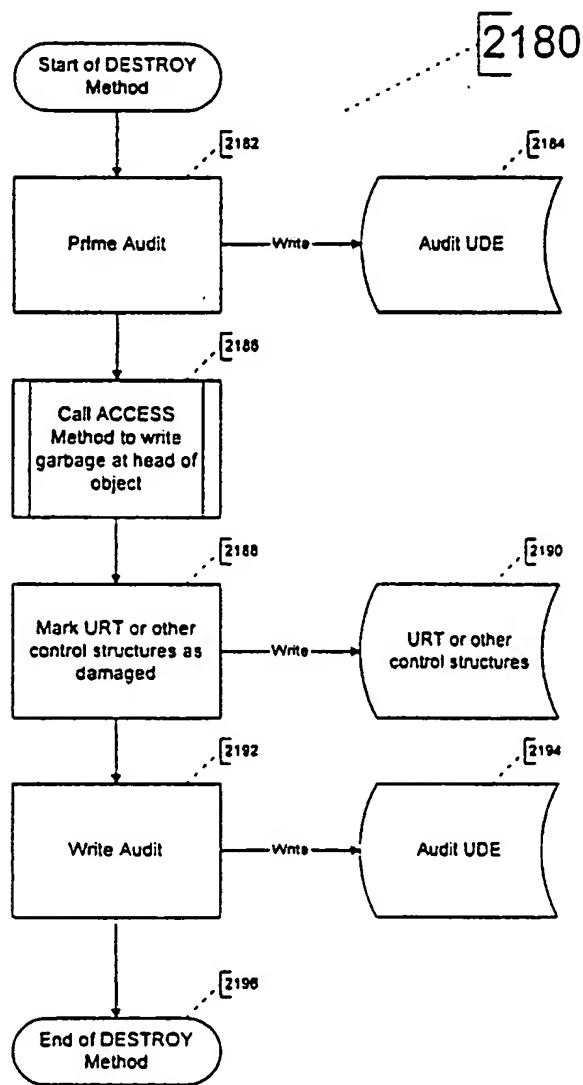


Figure 59

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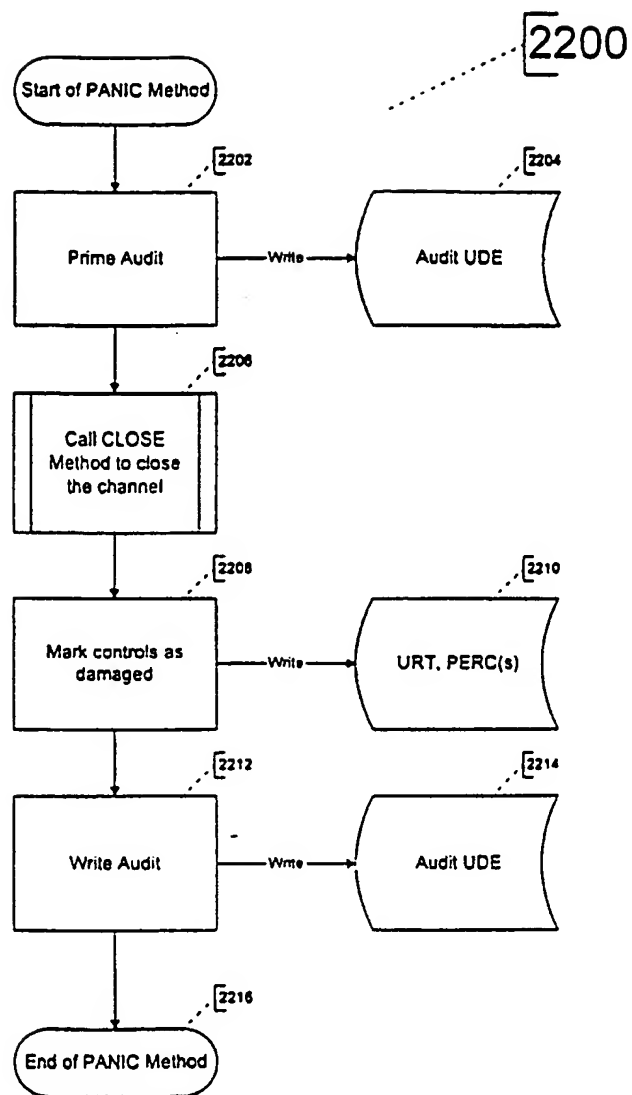


Figure 60

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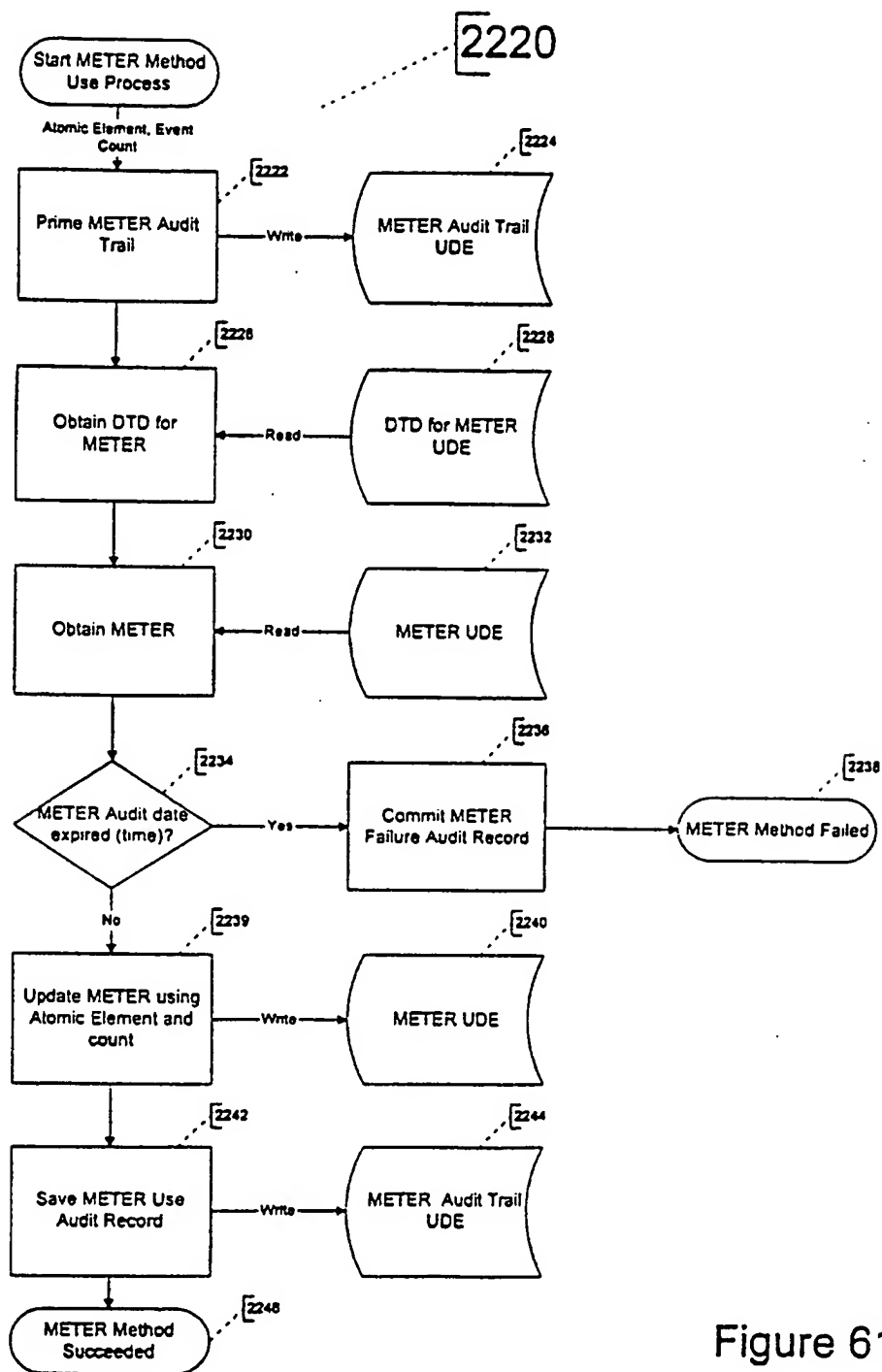
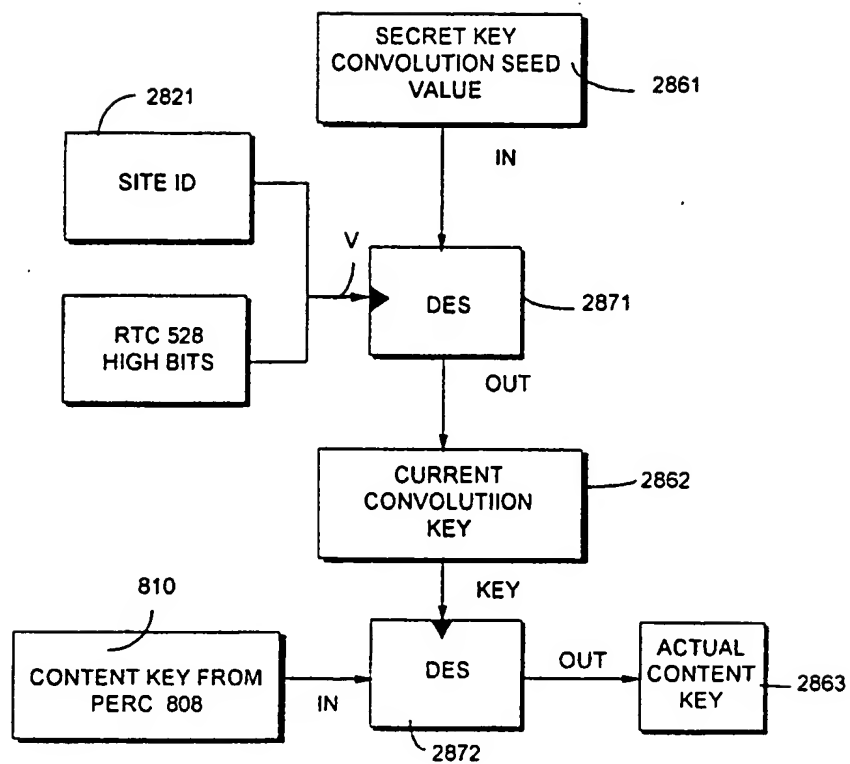


Figure 61

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FIG. 62



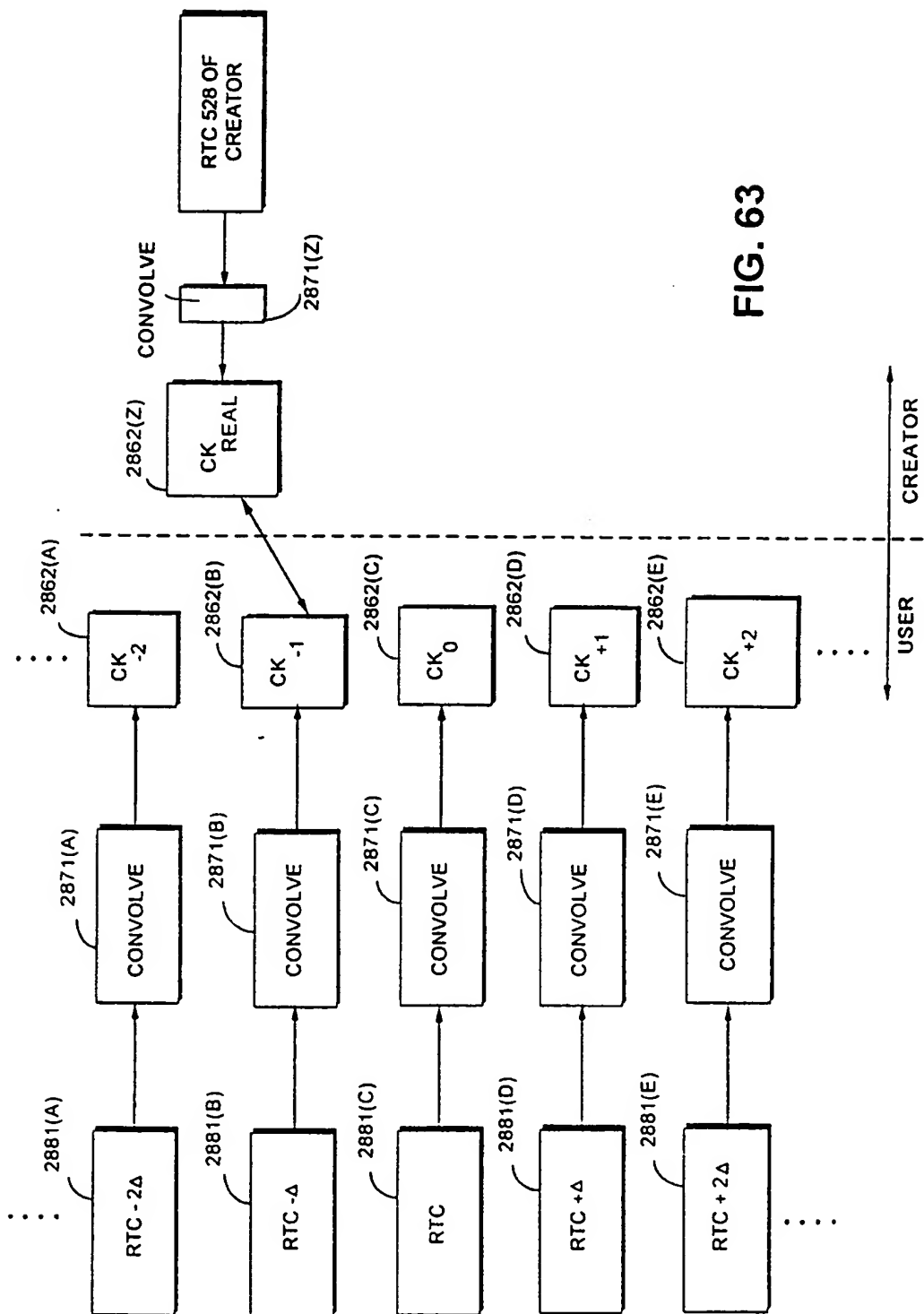
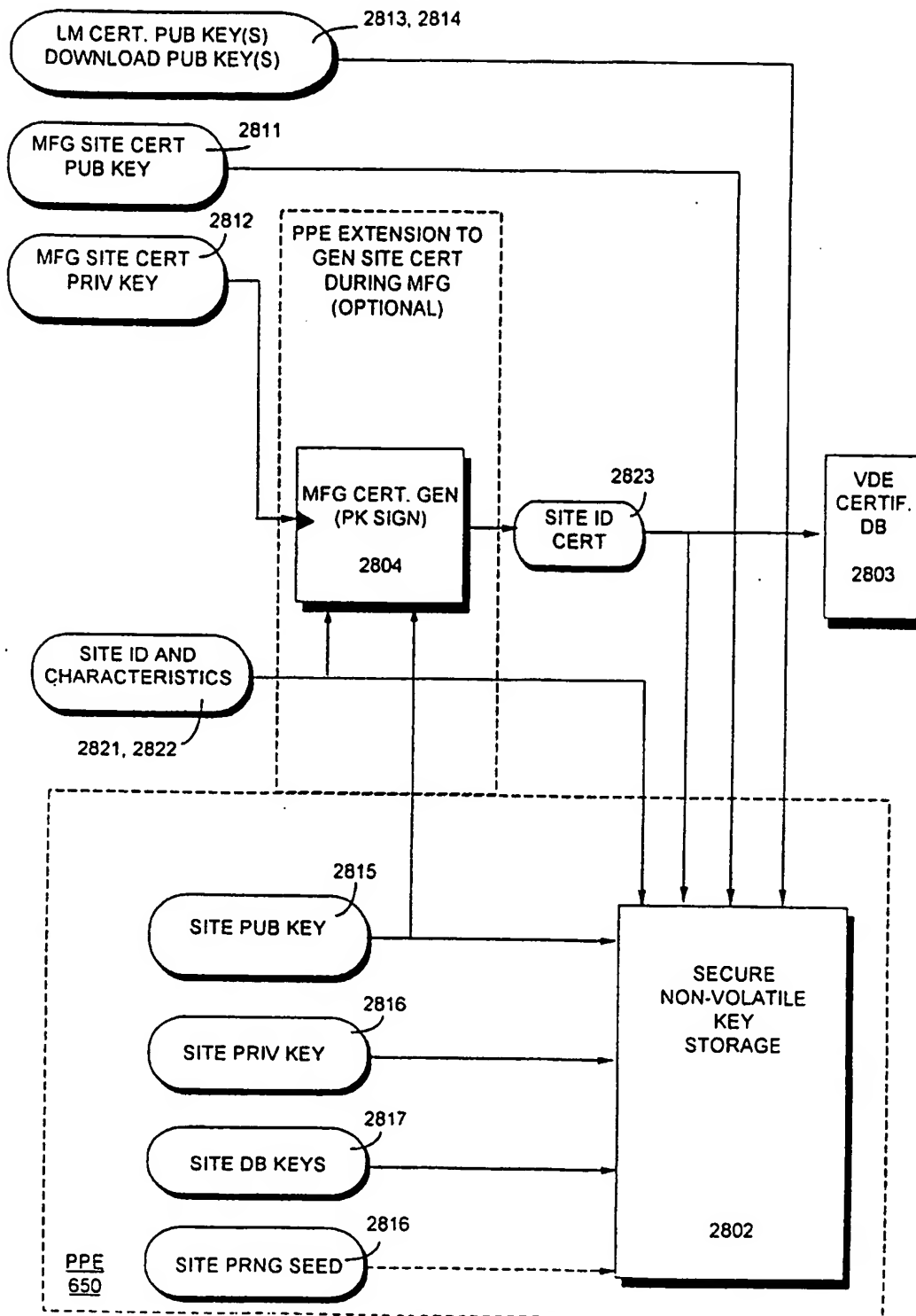


FIG. 63

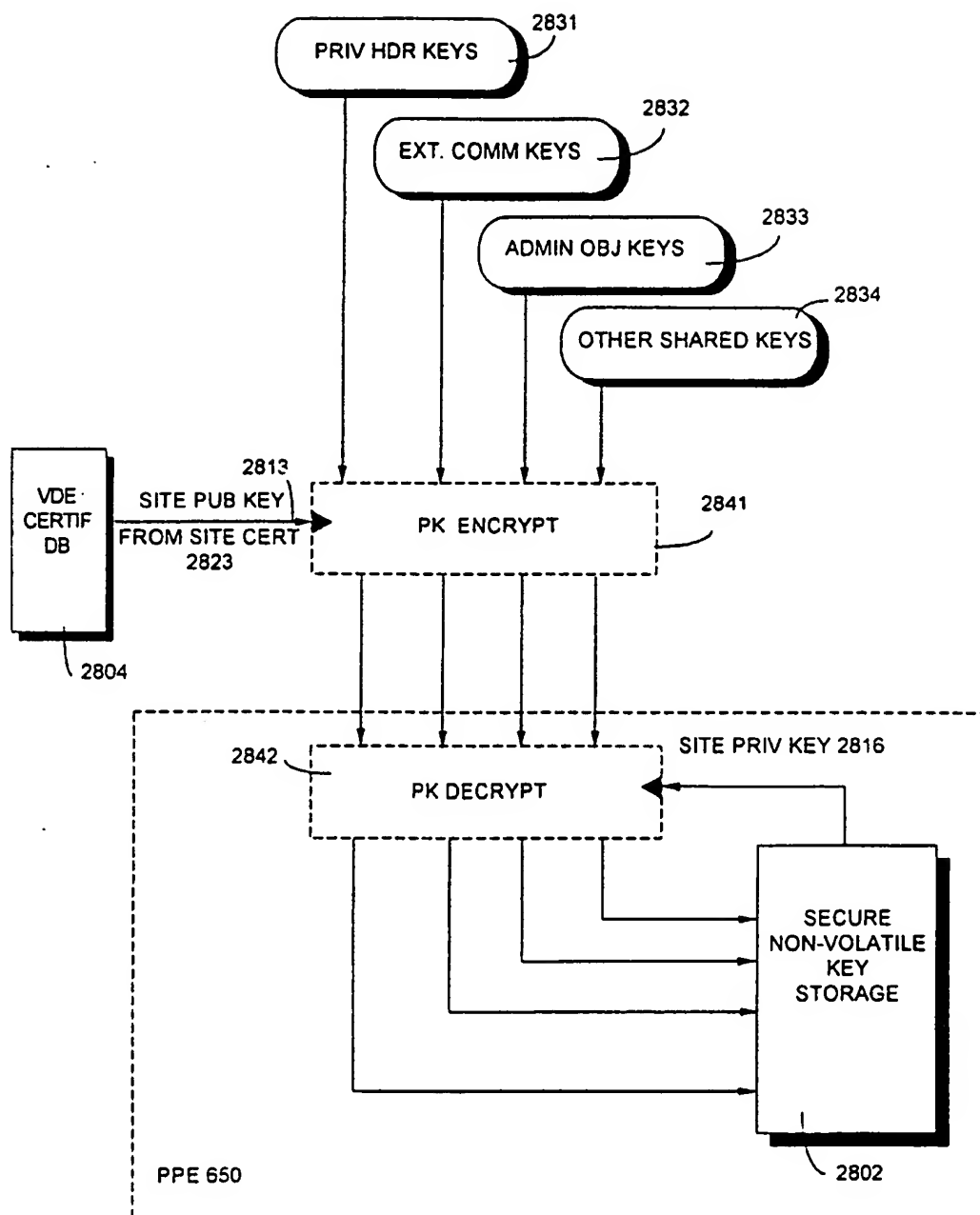
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FIG. 64



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FIG. 65



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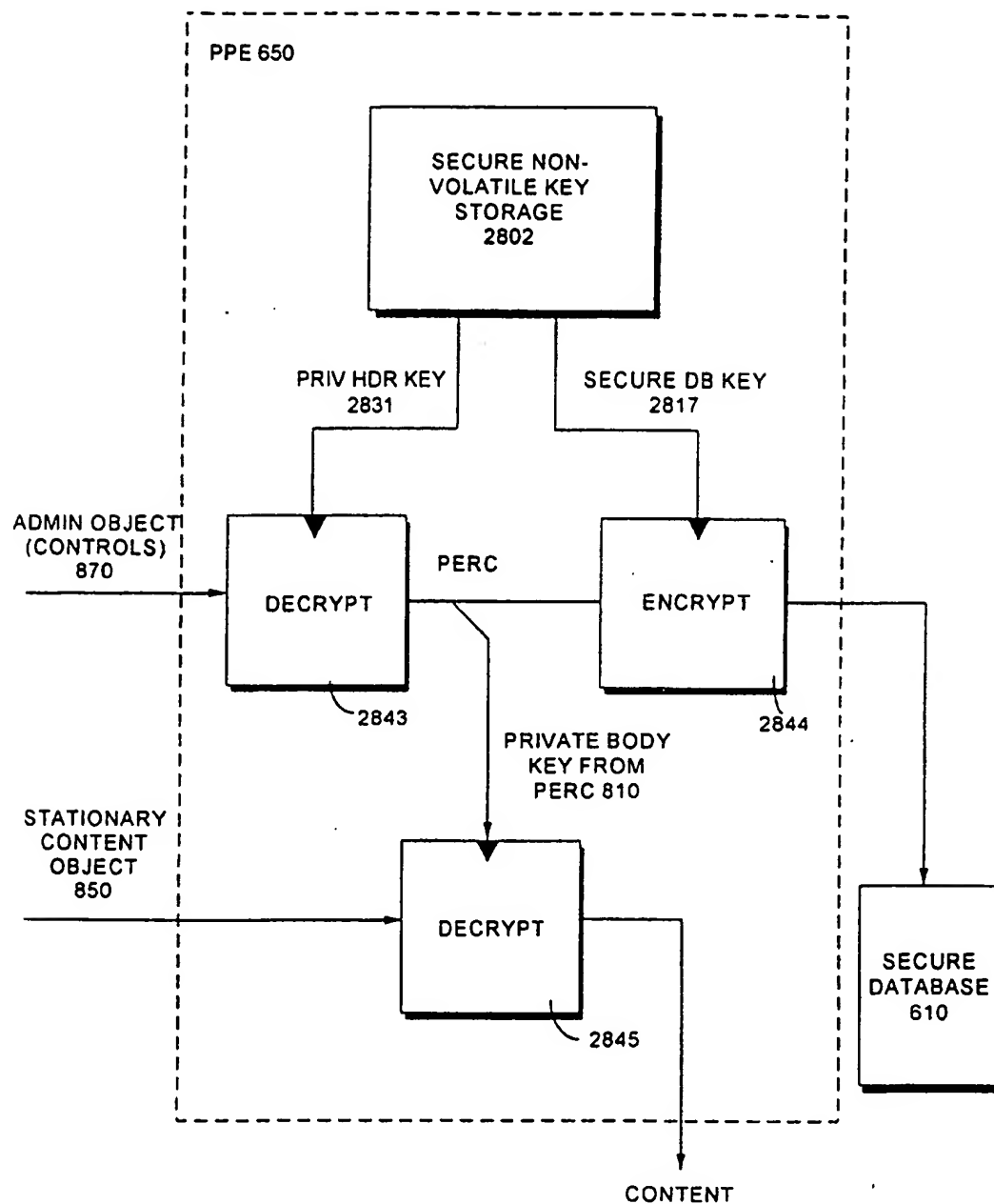


FIG. 66

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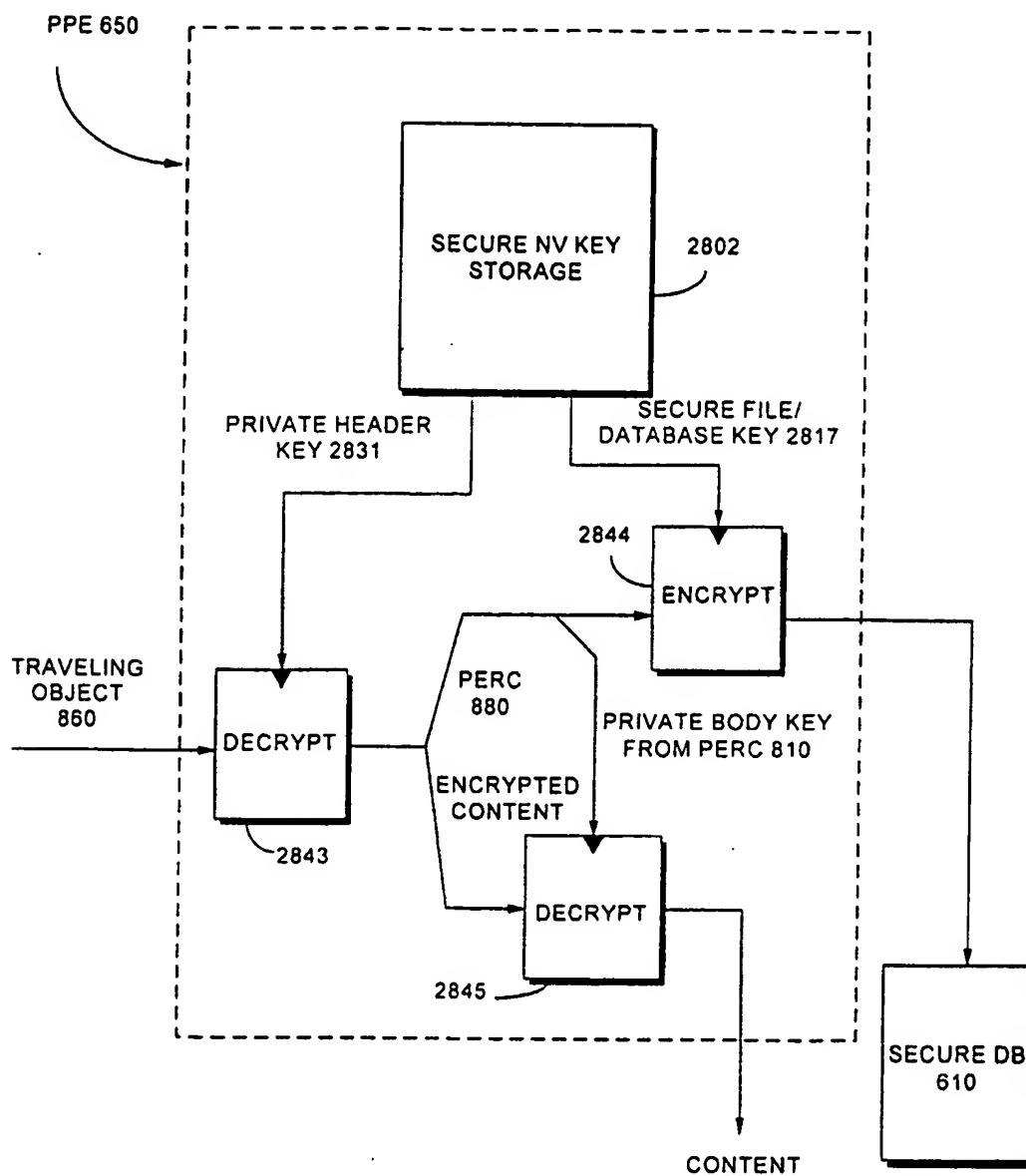
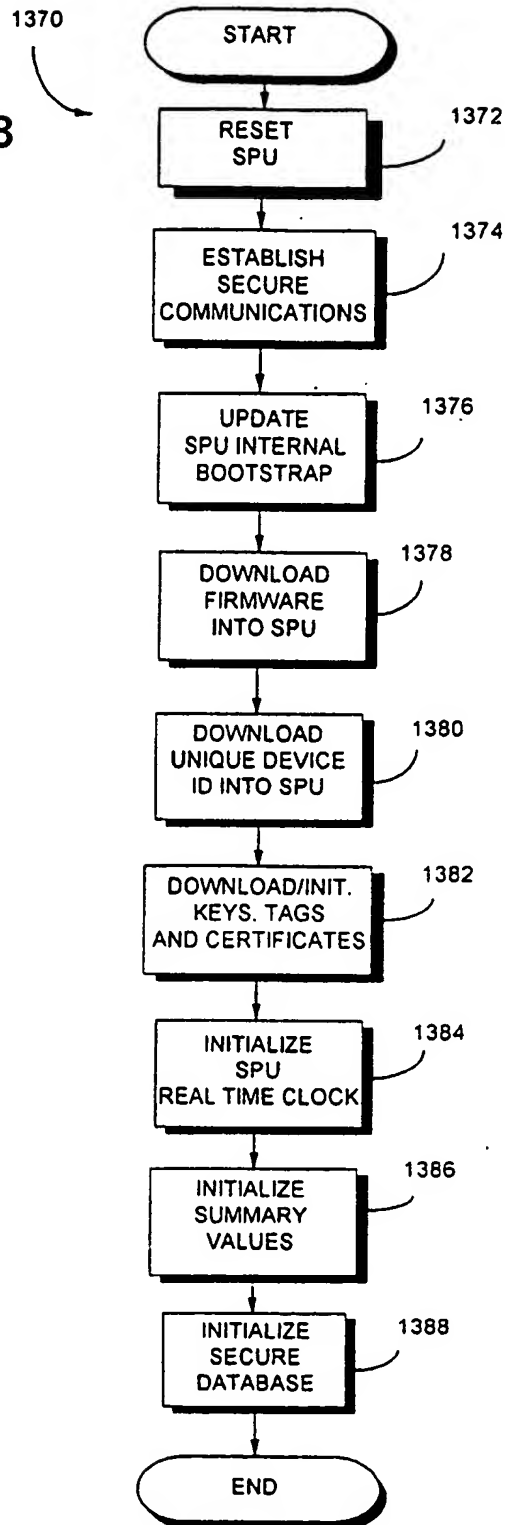


FIG. 67

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FIG. 68



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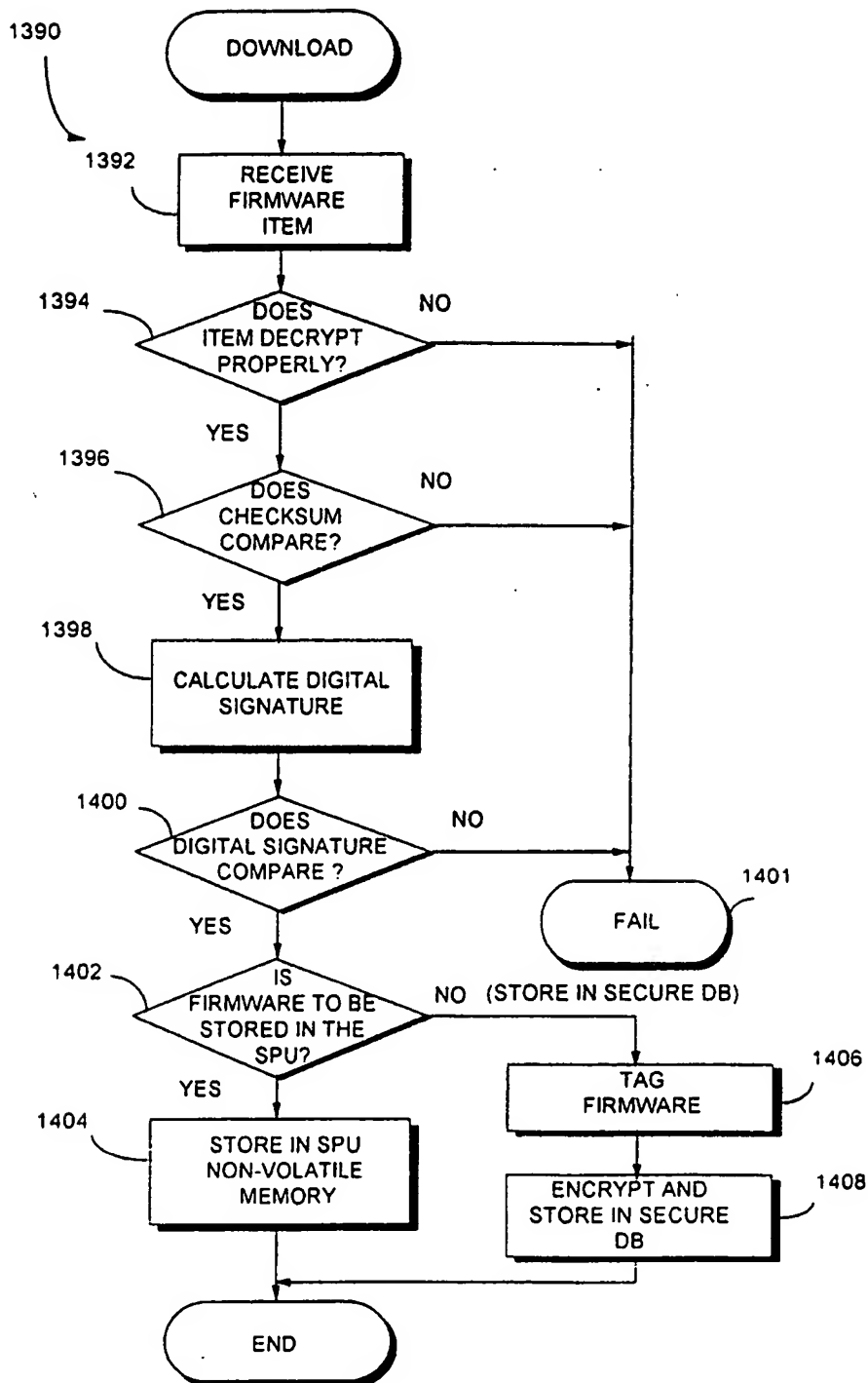


FIG. 69

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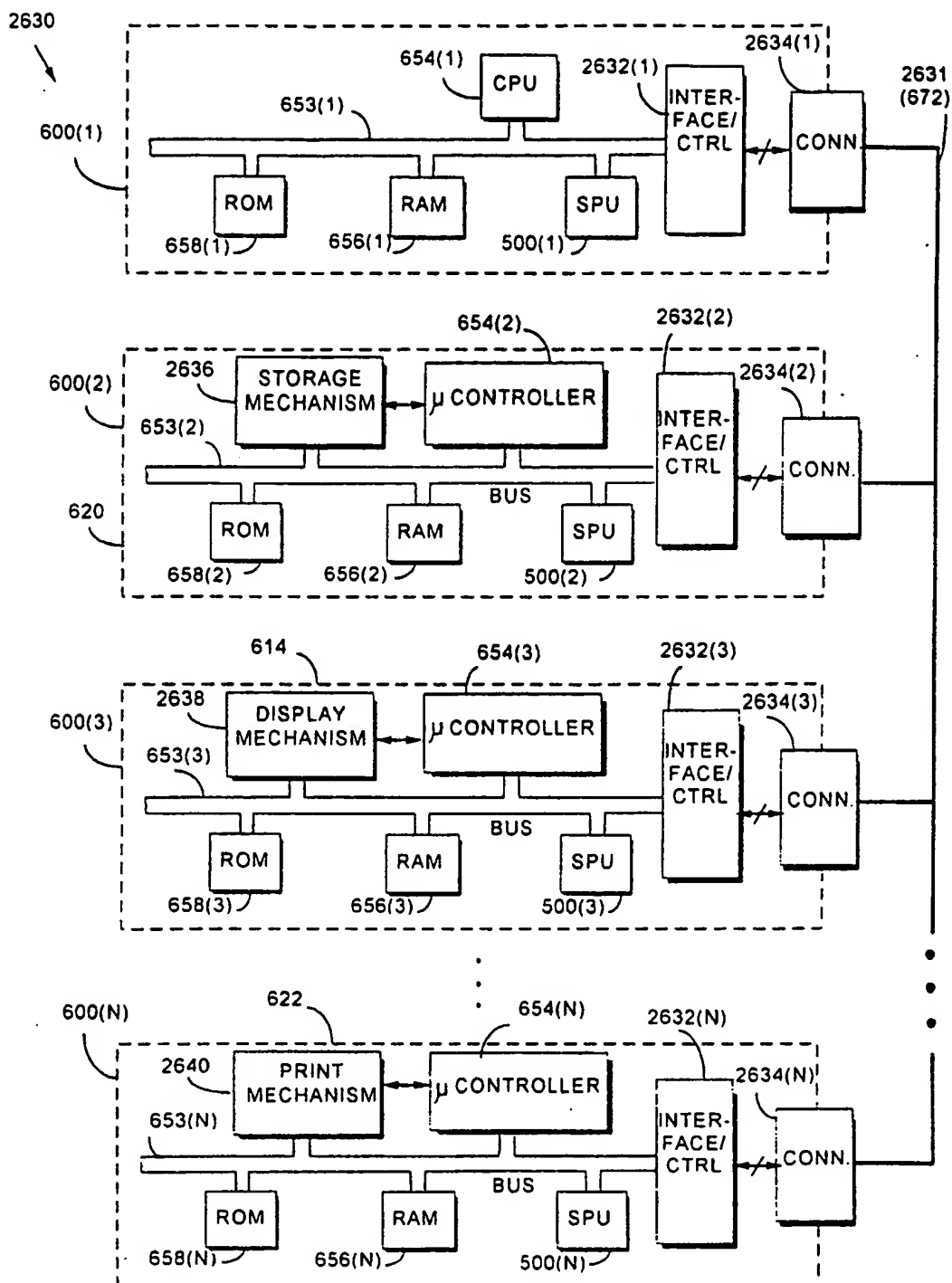
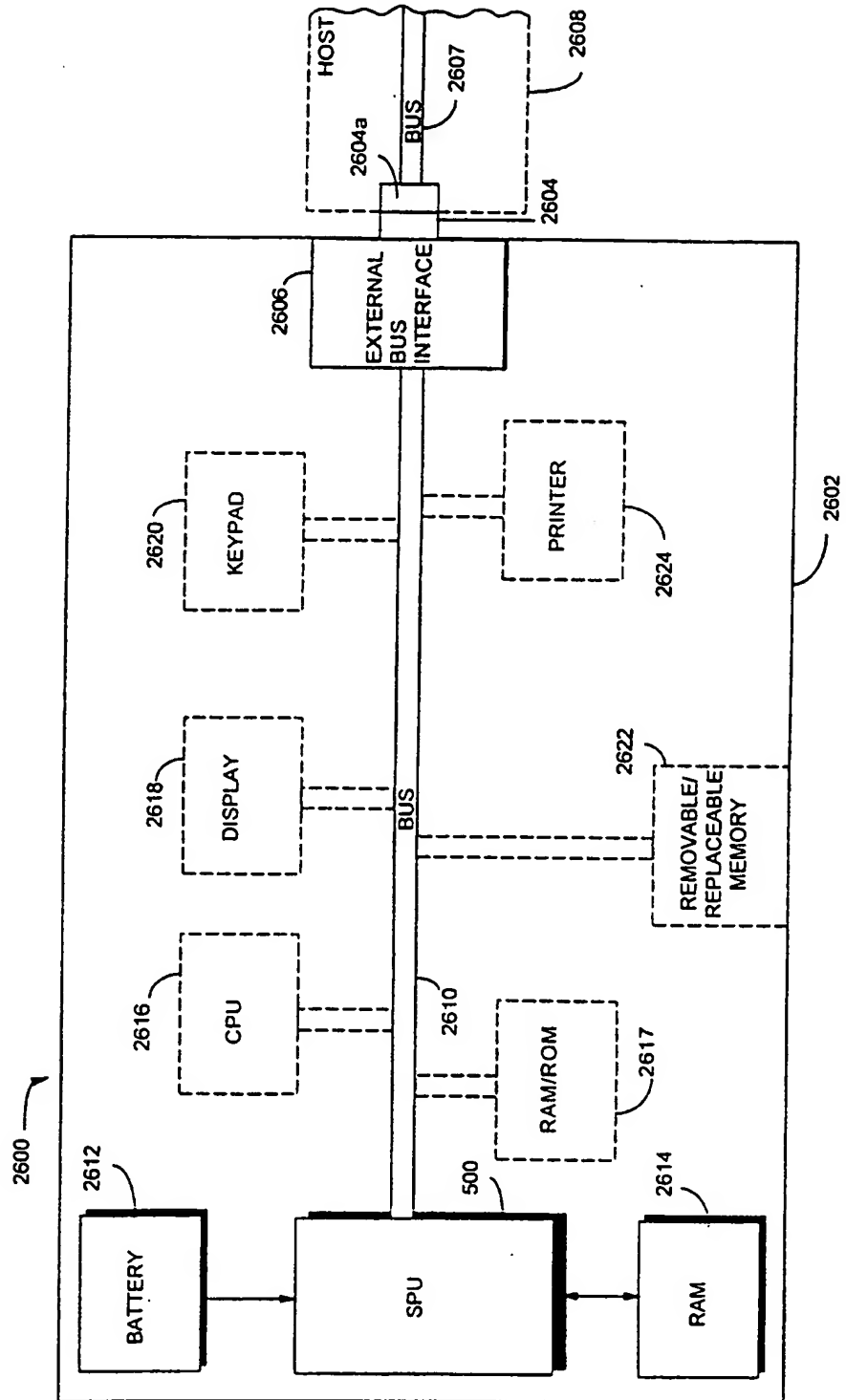


FIG. 70

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FIG. 71



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LOG IN USER INTERFACE



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USER NAME:	<input type="text" value="SHEAR. V."/>	<input type="button" value="LOGIN"/>
PASSWORD:	<input type="password" value="*****"/>	<input type="button" value="CANCEL"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> LOGIN AT STARTUP		<input type="button" value="HELP"/>

FIG. 72A

FIG. 72B

2660

	YOU HAVE REQUESTED THESE PROPERTIES:	<input type="button" value="CANCEL"/>
<u>LOONEY TUNES NEWS!</u>	<input type="button" value="APPROVE"/>	<input type="button" value="SUSPEND"/>
<input type="button" value="PROPERTY INFO"/>	2662 Your Cost: \$7.50	MORE OPTIONS 

2664

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FIG. 72C

SET LIMITS:

SESSION DOLLAR LIMIT: \$ ↑
↓

TRANSACTION DOLLAR LIMIT: \$ 2668

TIME LIMIT (IN MINUTES): 2670

UNIT LIMIT: 2672

2674

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FIG. 72D

YOU HAVE REQUESTED THESE PROPERTIES:

LOONEY TUNE NEWS!

YOUR COST : \$7.50

PROPERTY INFO

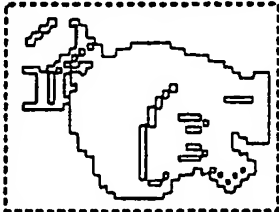
CANCEL

APPROVE

SUSPEND

More Options ☒

Show Thumbnail

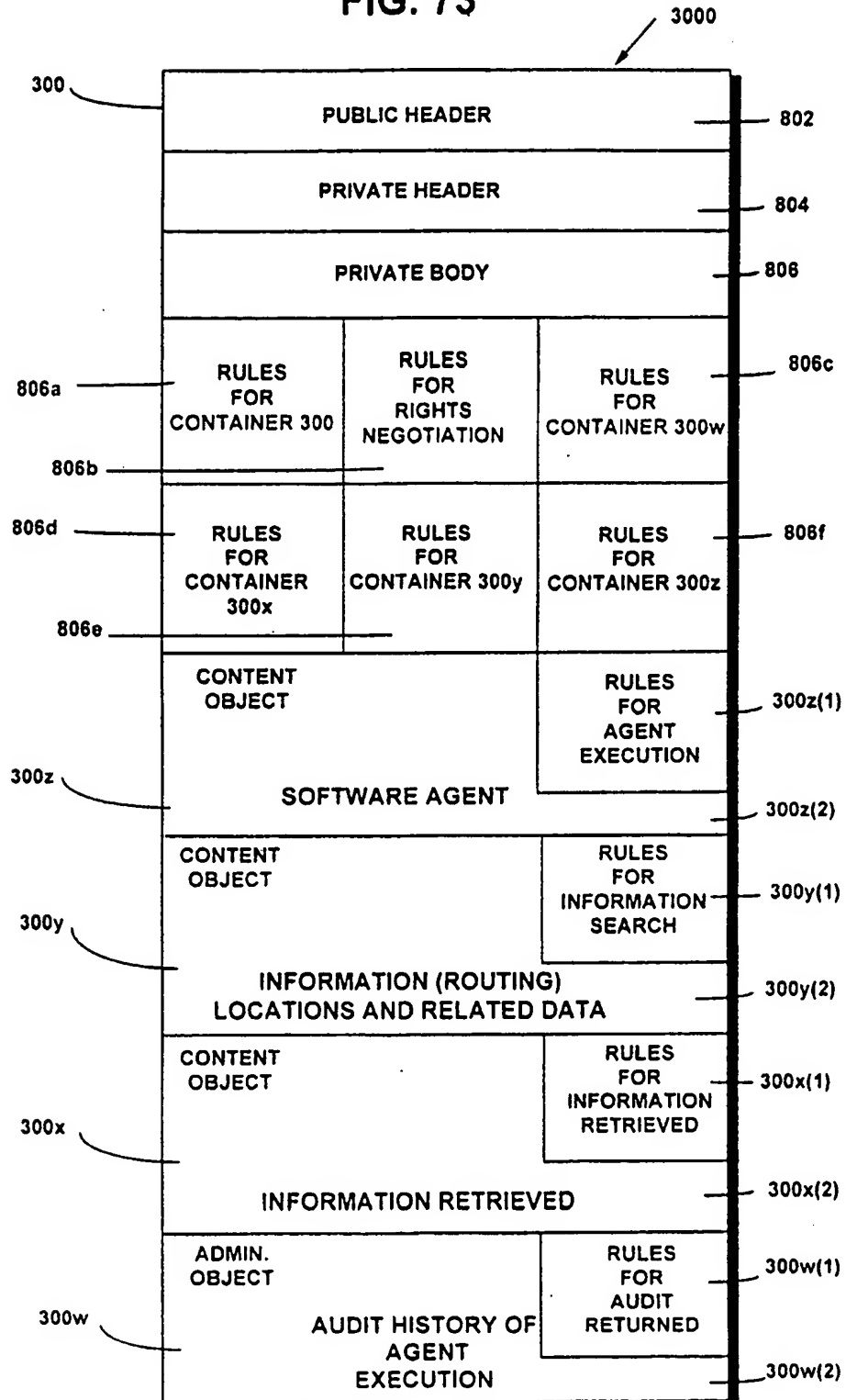


PROPERTY	SIZE	PUBLISHER	AMOUNT	UNITS	COST/UNIT	TYPE	USE?	LINKS	HIST.
CHUCK JONES BIOGRA	256KB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	64	KBYTE	\$1.25	PREVIEW	✓	●	
▼ BUGS BUNNY.JPE...	1MB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	1	RECORD	\$5.00	DISPLAY	✓	●	
BUGS BUNNY.JPEG...	1MB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	10	RECORD	\$3.50	DISPLAY		●	
BUGS BUNNY.JPEG ..	1MB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	25	RECORD	\$2.50	DISPLAY		●	
FRIZ FRELENG BIOGRA	256KB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	120	SECTOR	\$5.00	PRINT			
TEX AVERY BIOGRAP	256KB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	50	PERCENT	\$2.50	COPY			
▶ DUCK! RABBIT DU...	64MB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	7.0	MINUTE	\$7.50	COPY-PRO			
MEL BLANC BIOGRAPH	256KB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	1	SPECIAL	\$25.25	INSTALL			
LOONEY TUNES DATAB	600MB	WARNER NEW MEDIA	1	OBJECT	\$2000.00	ALL			

SET LIMITS...	SHOW BUDGETS	ACQUIRE BUDGET...	HISTORY...	TRANSFER...	PREFERENCES...	FEEDBACK...	HELP!
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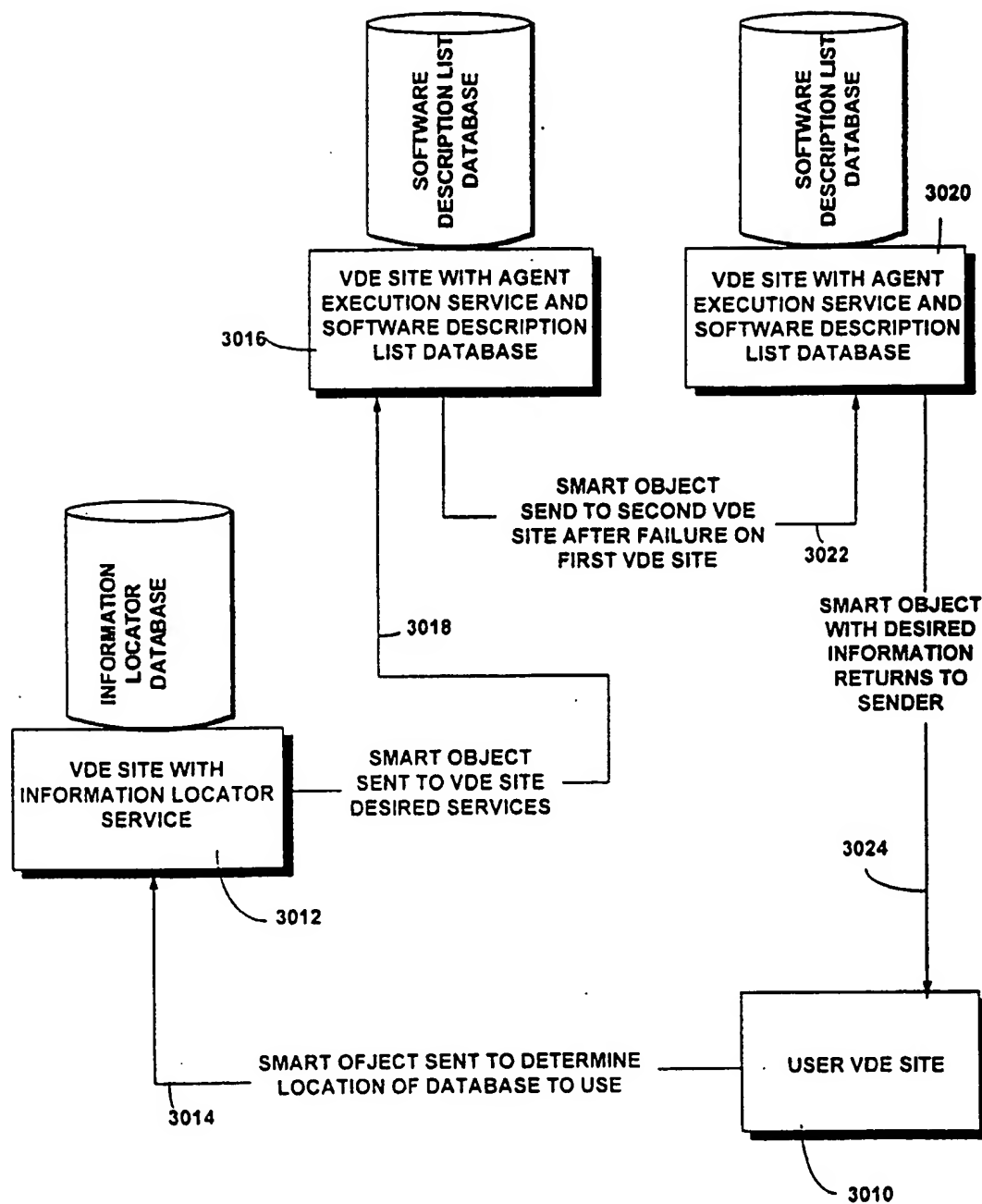
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FIG. 73



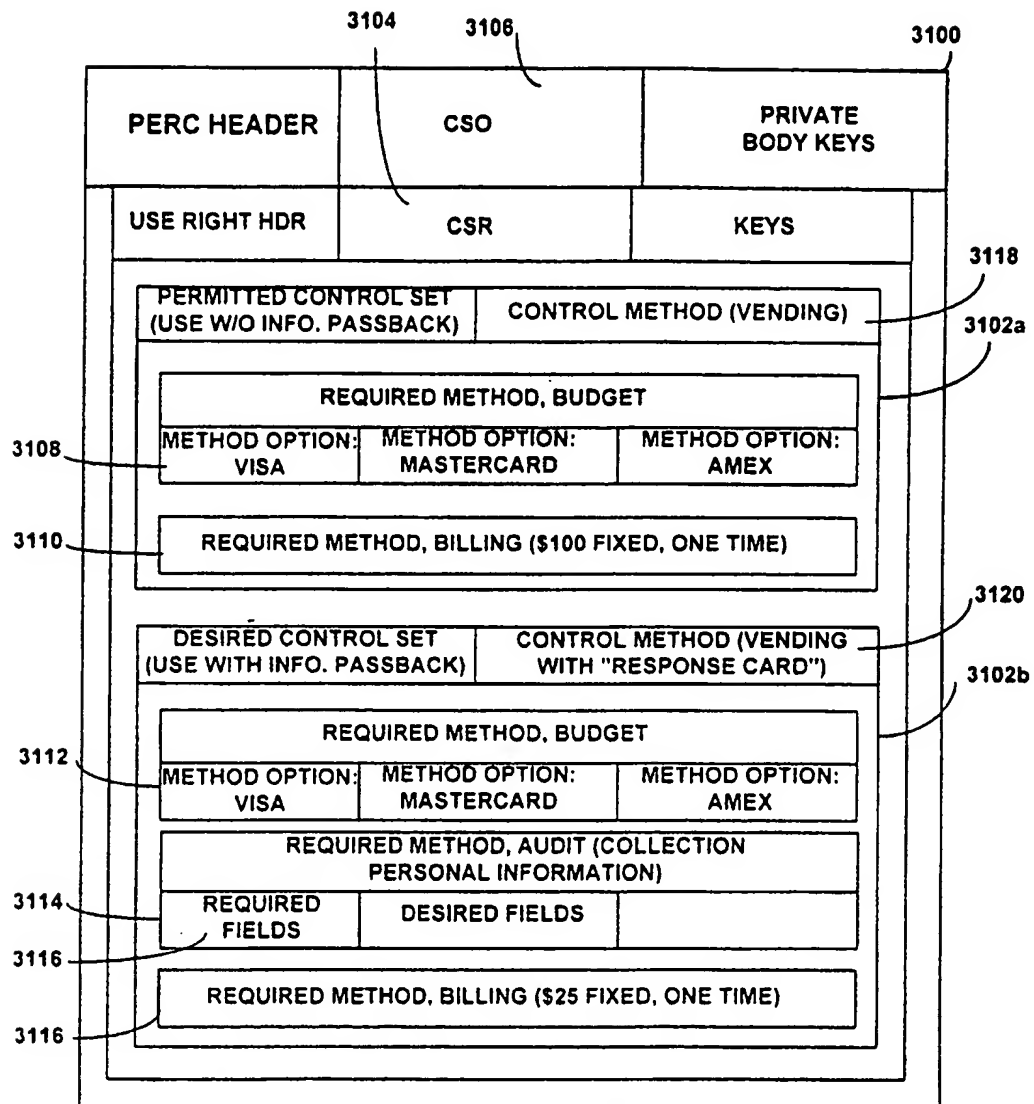
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FIG. 74



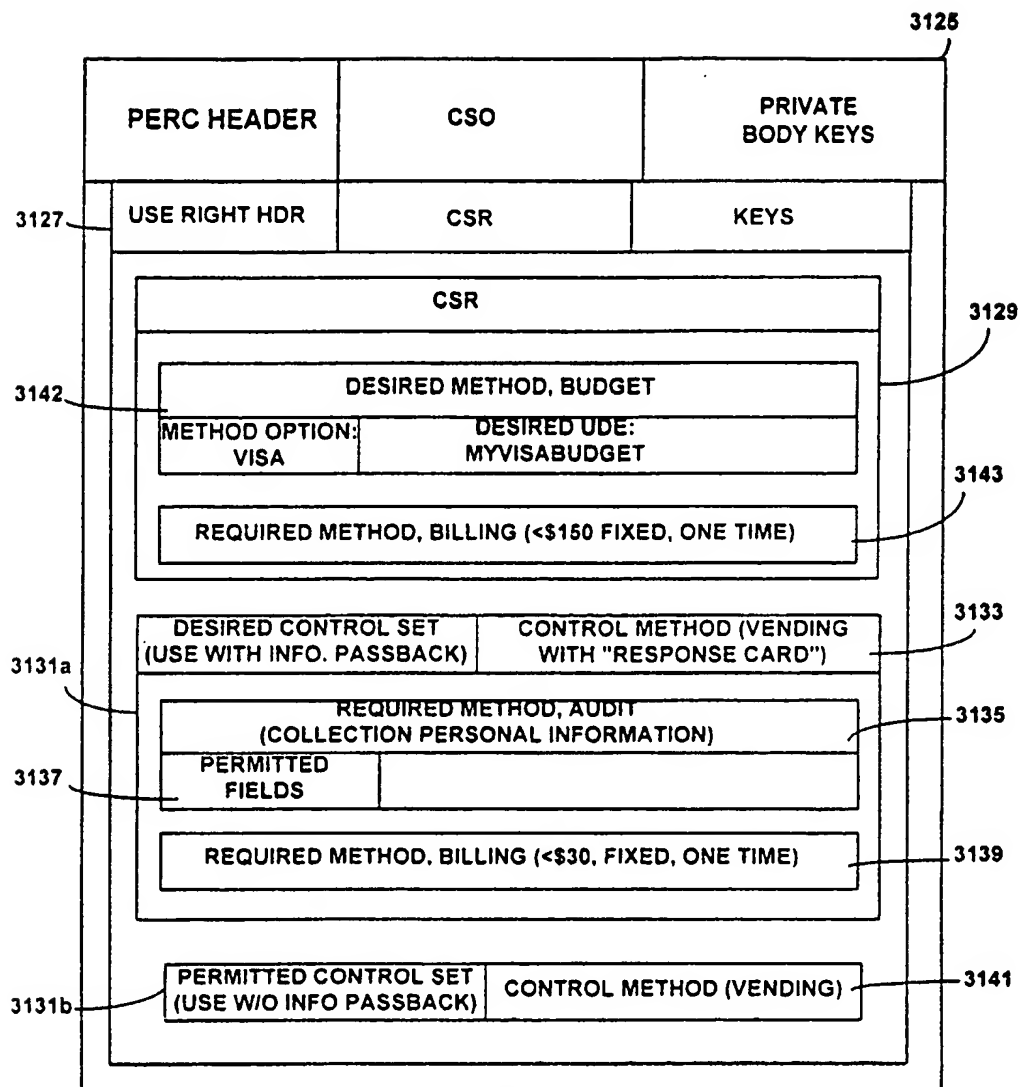
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FIG. 75A



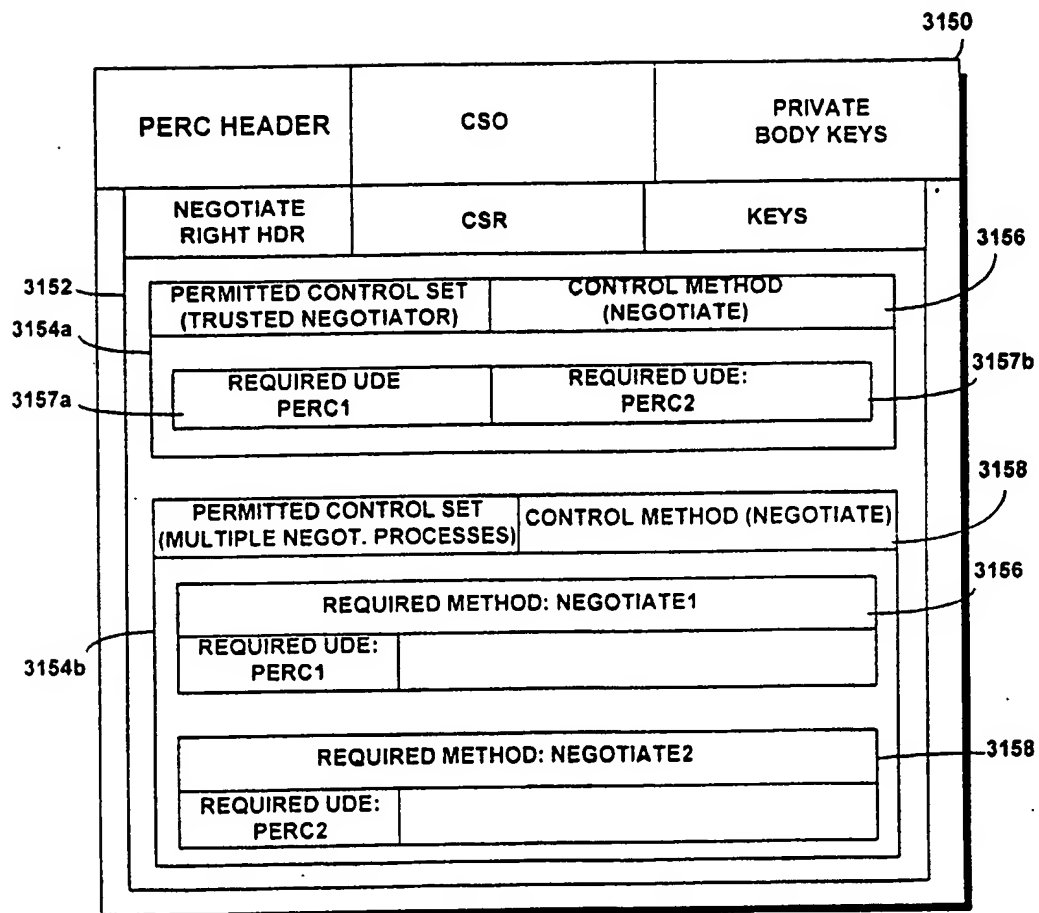
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FIG. 75B



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FIG. 75C



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FIG. 75D

URT HEADER		CSO		DIGITAL SIGNATURE	
USE RIGHT HDR		CSR			
CONTROL SET(USE WITH INFO. PASSBACK)		CONTROL METHOD(VENDING WITH "RESPONSE CARD")			
REQUIRED METHOD, BUDGET					
METHOD OPTION: VISA		DESIRED UDE: MYVISABUDGET			
REQUIRED METHOD, AUDIT (COLLECTION PERSONAL INFORMATION)					
PERMITTED FIELDS					
REQUIRED METHOD, BILLING(\$25, FIXED, ONE TIME)					

3160

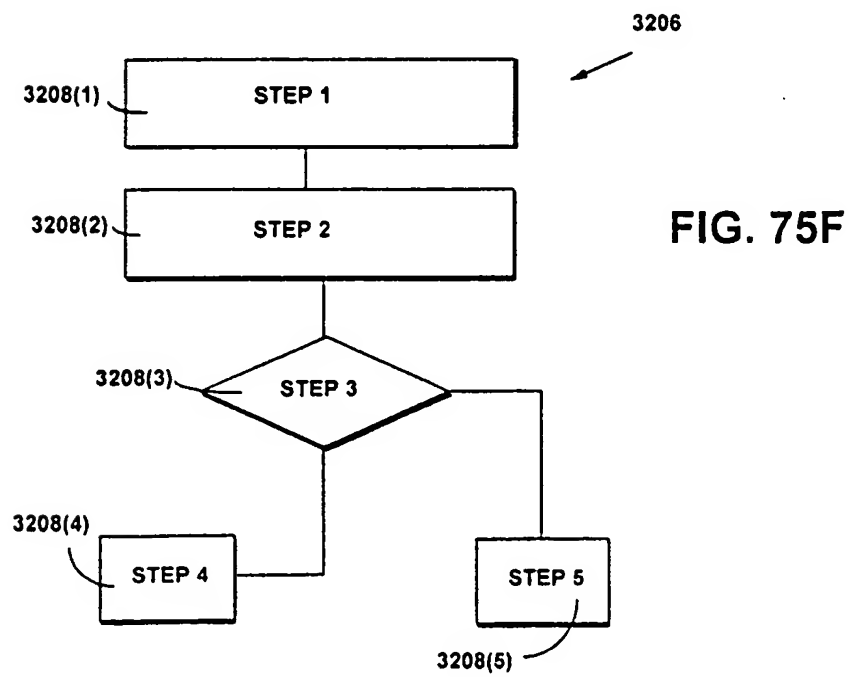
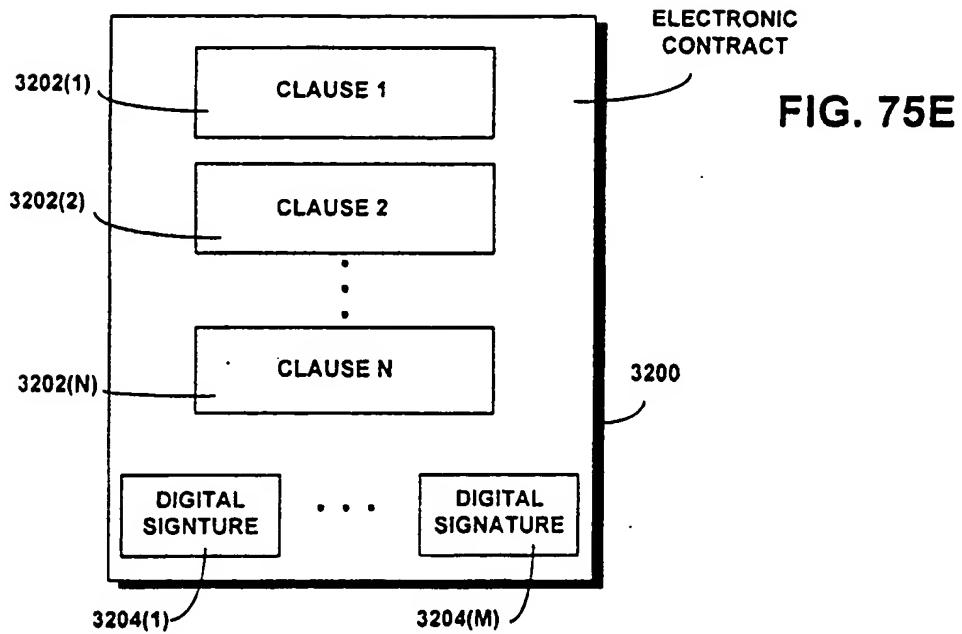
3162

3164

3166

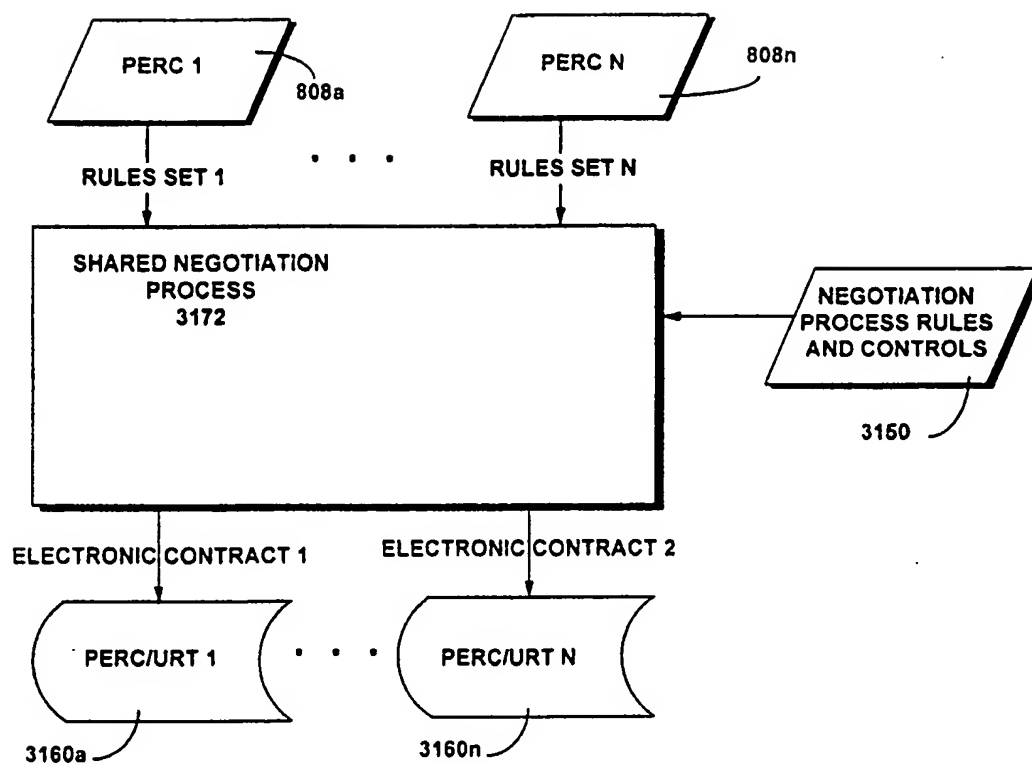
3170

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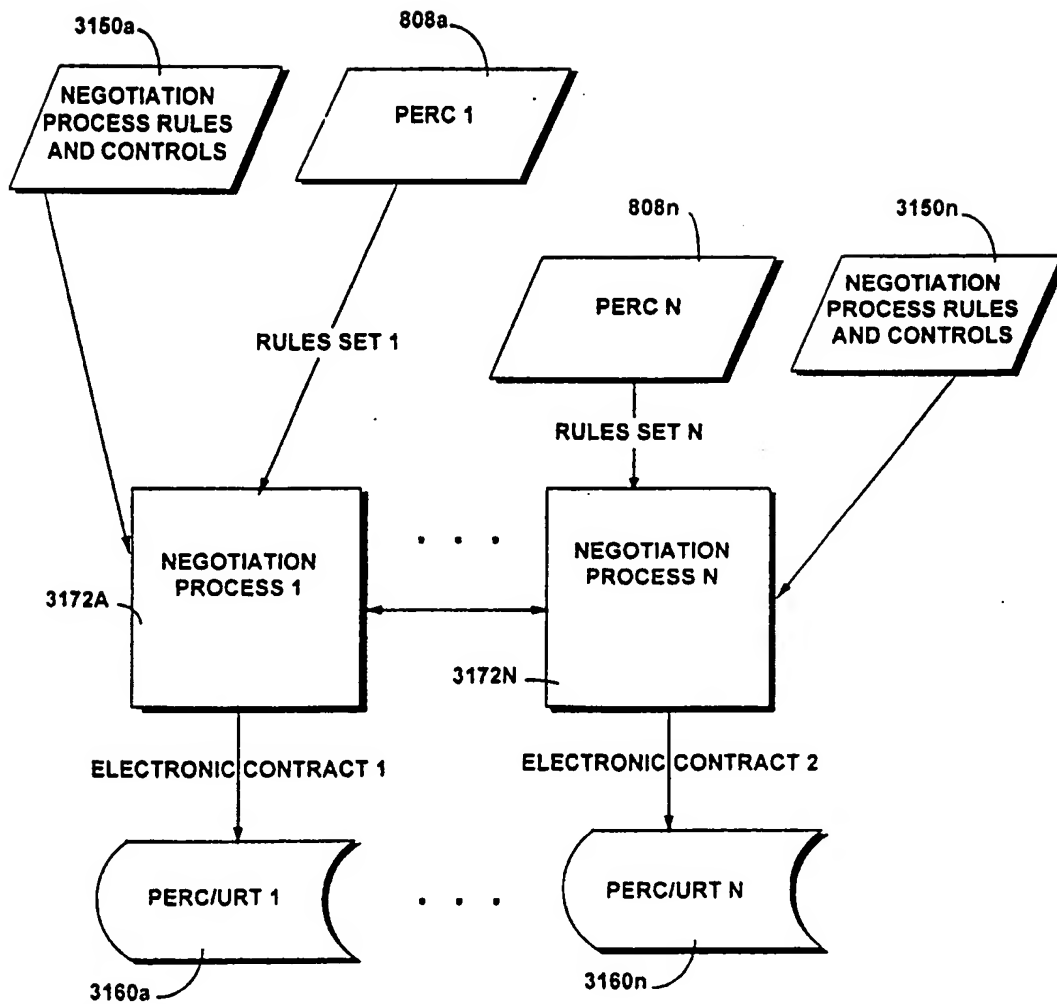
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FIG. 76A



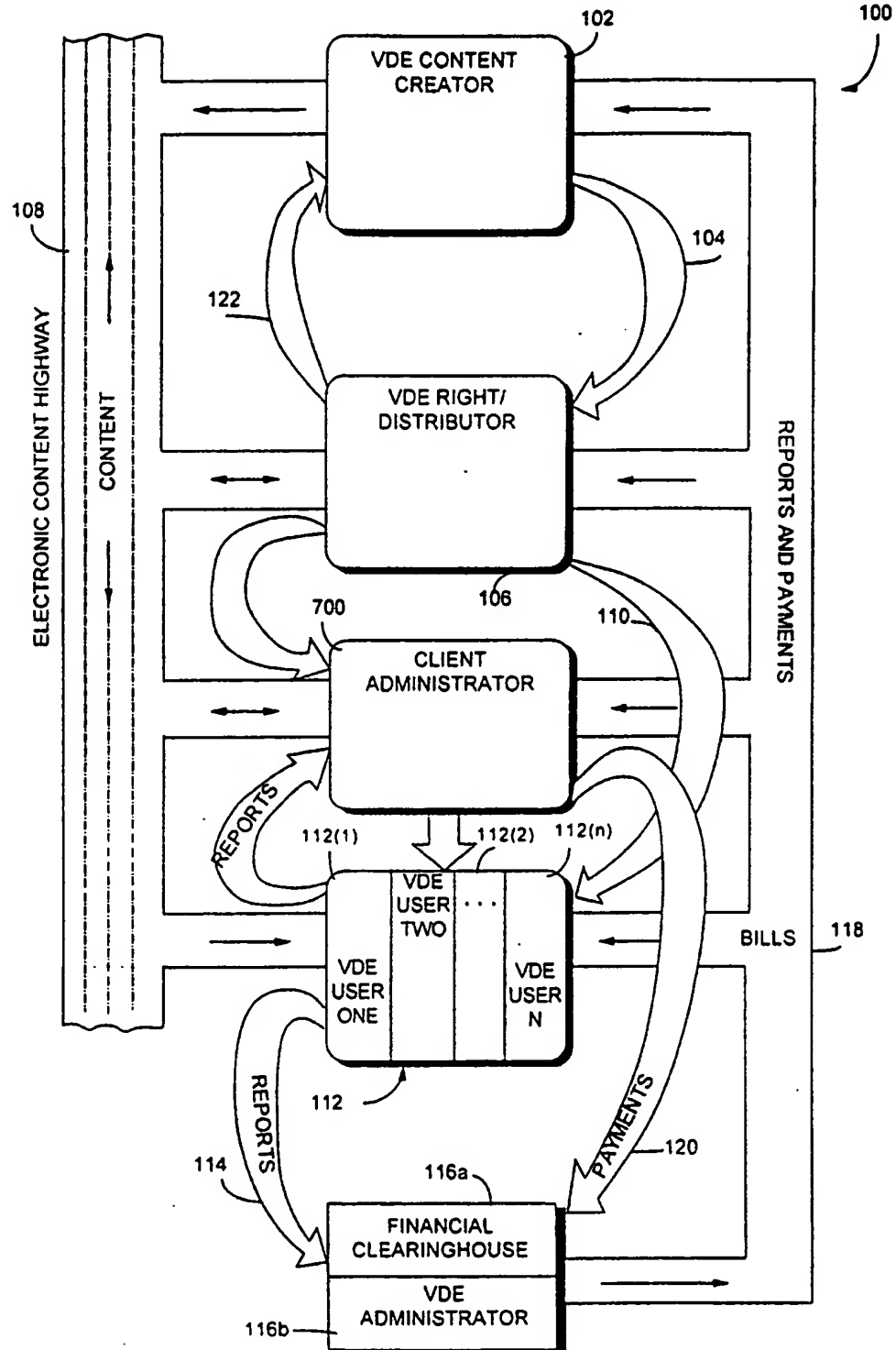
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FIG. 76B



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FIG. 77



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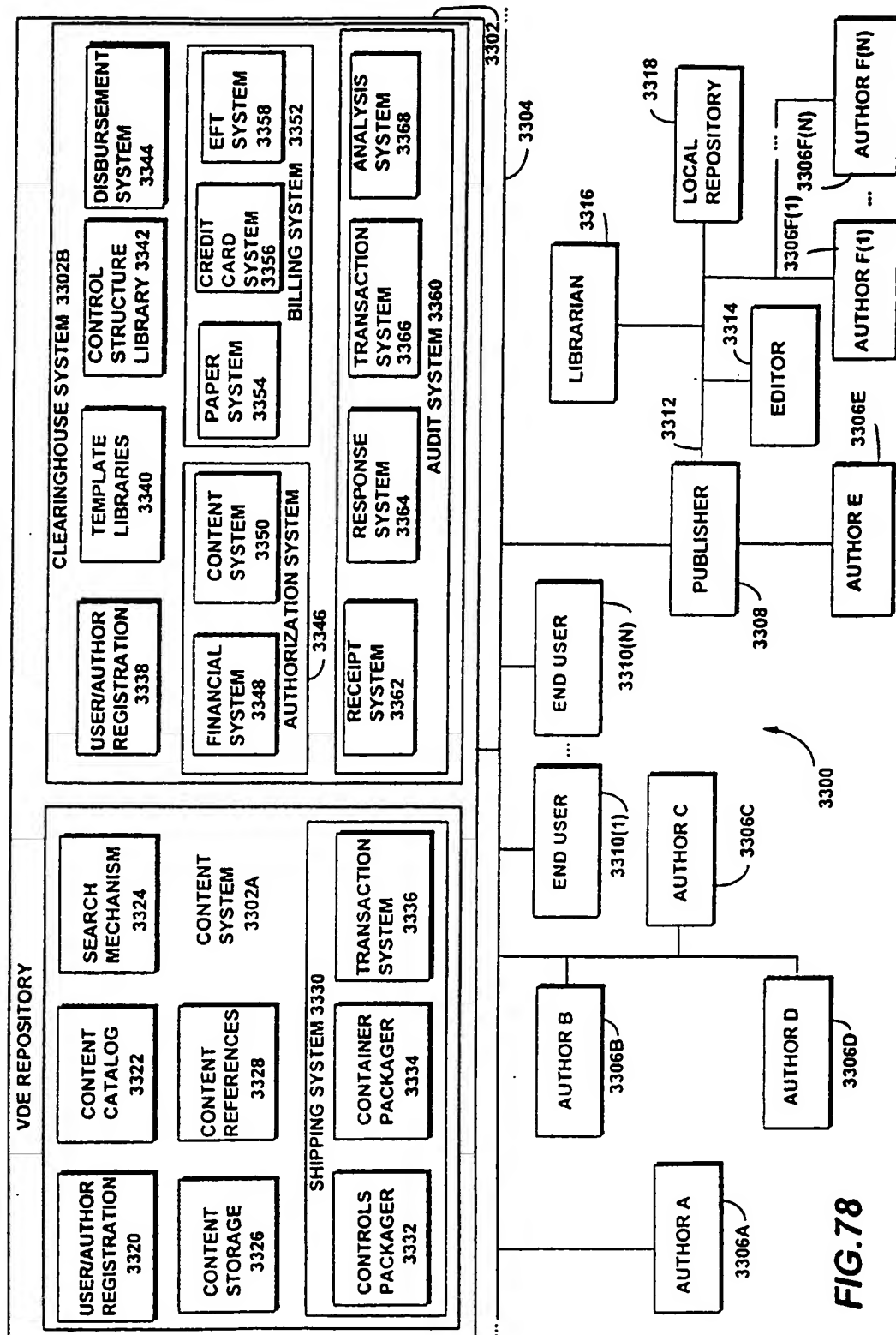
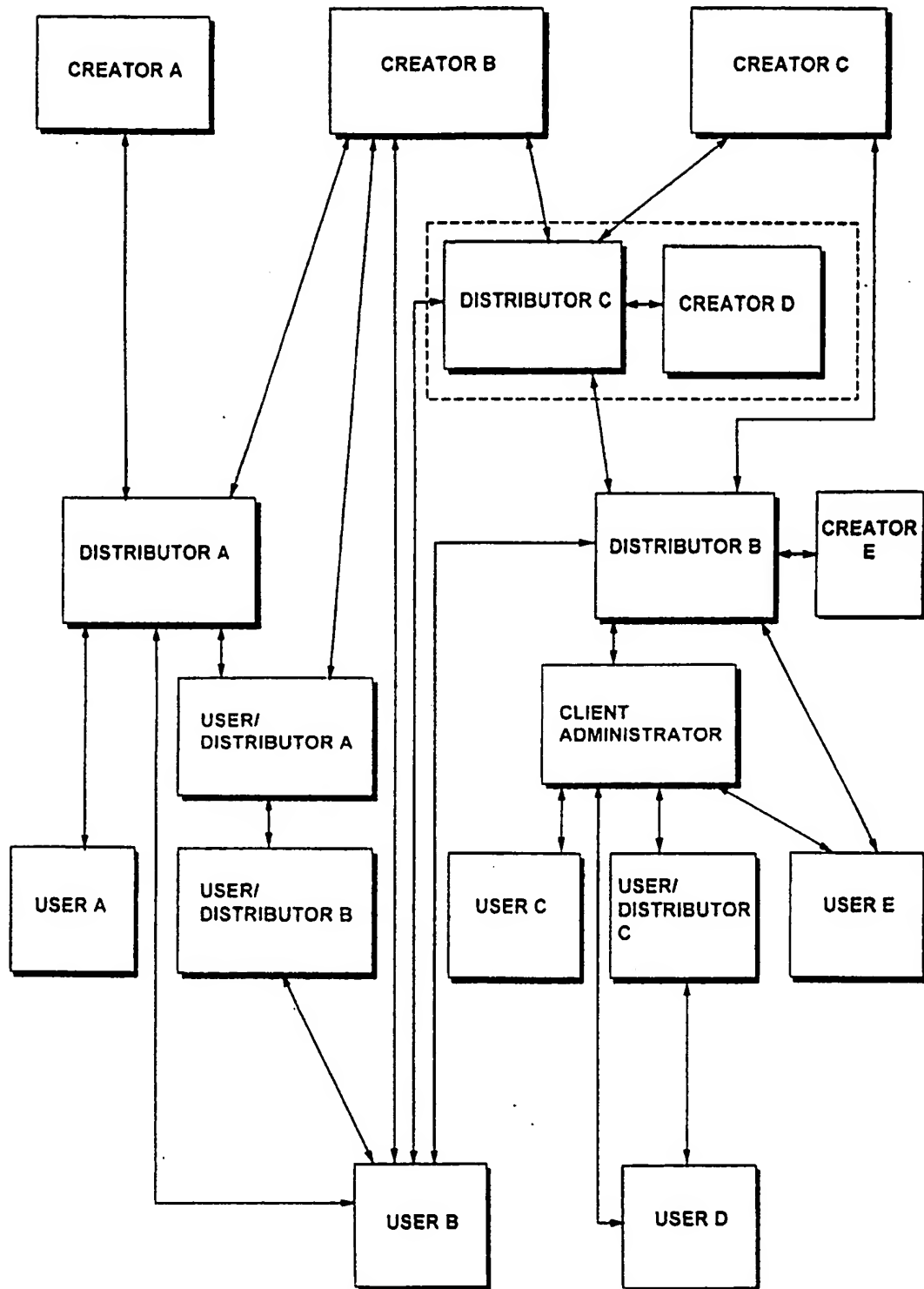
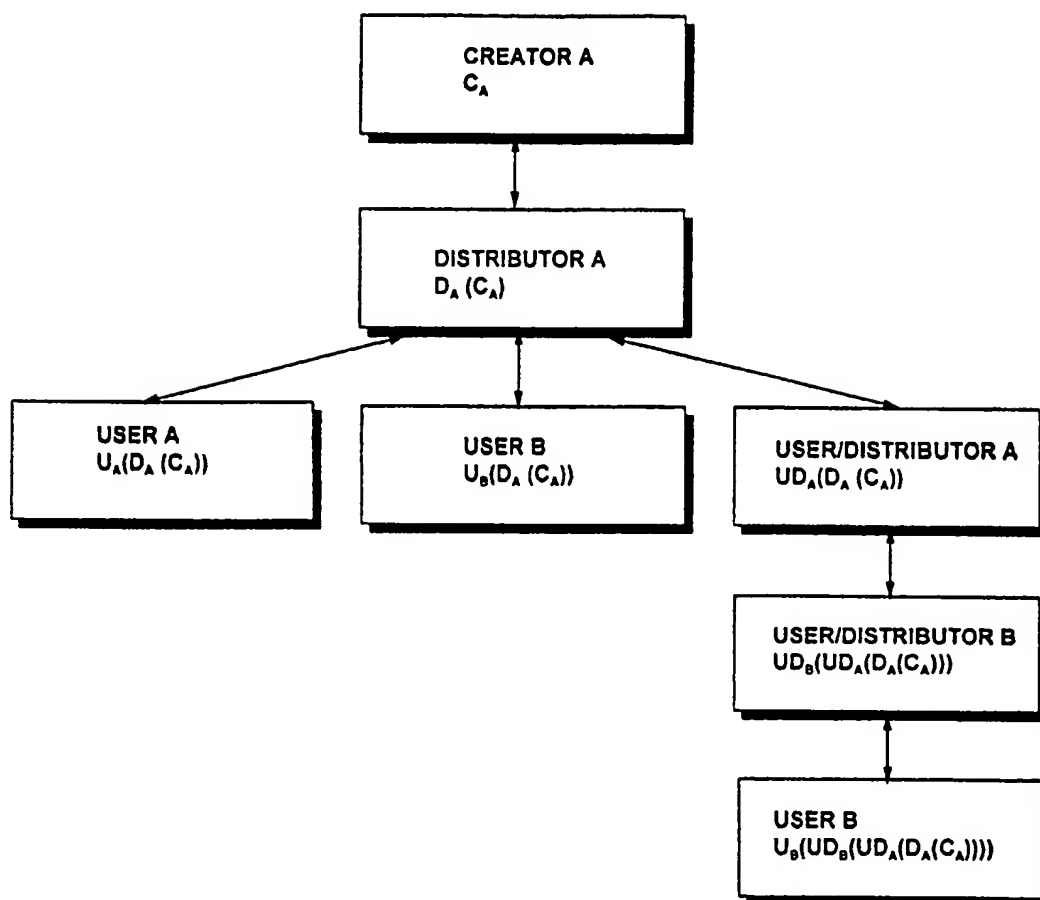


FIG. 78

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FIG. 79

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FIG. 80

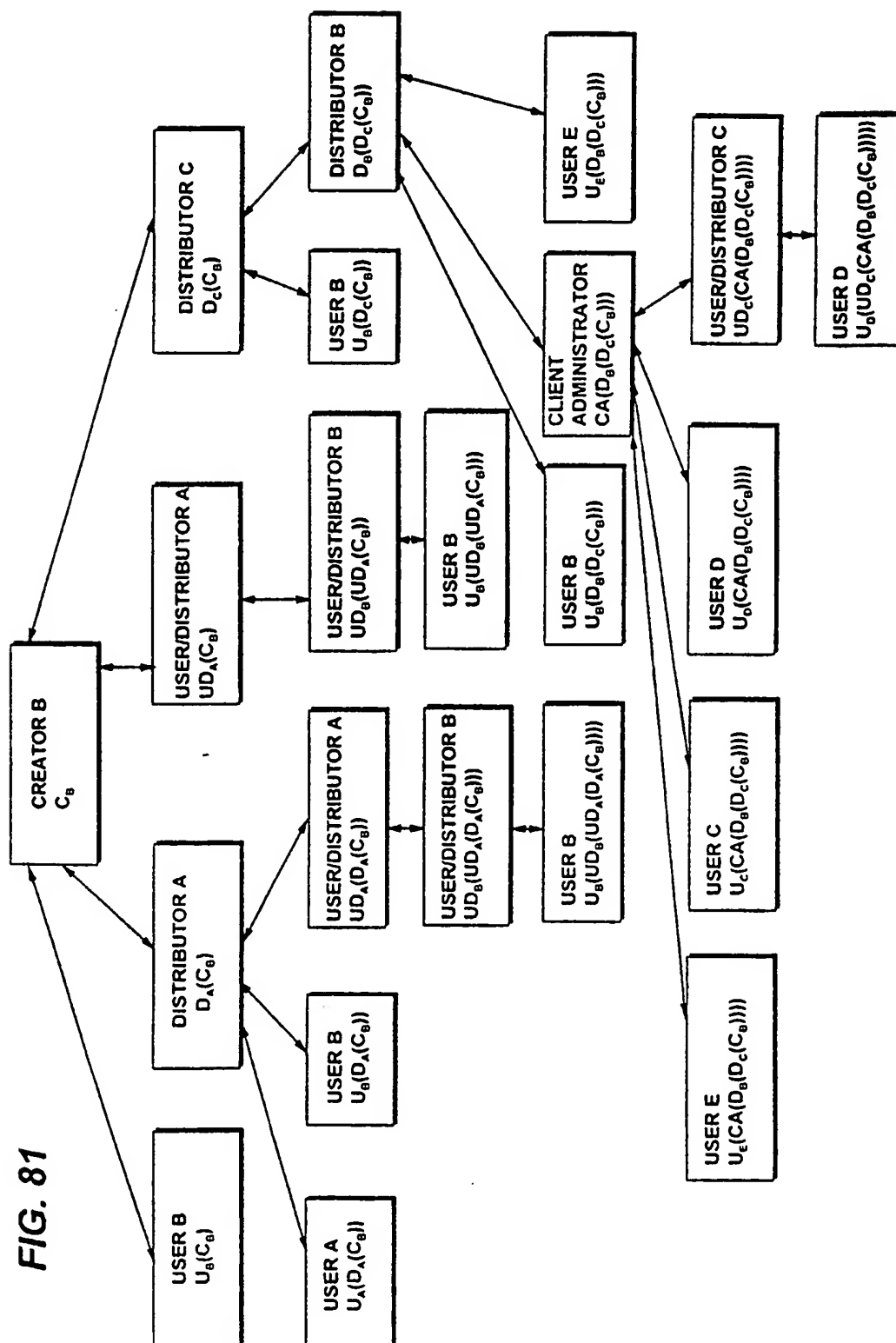
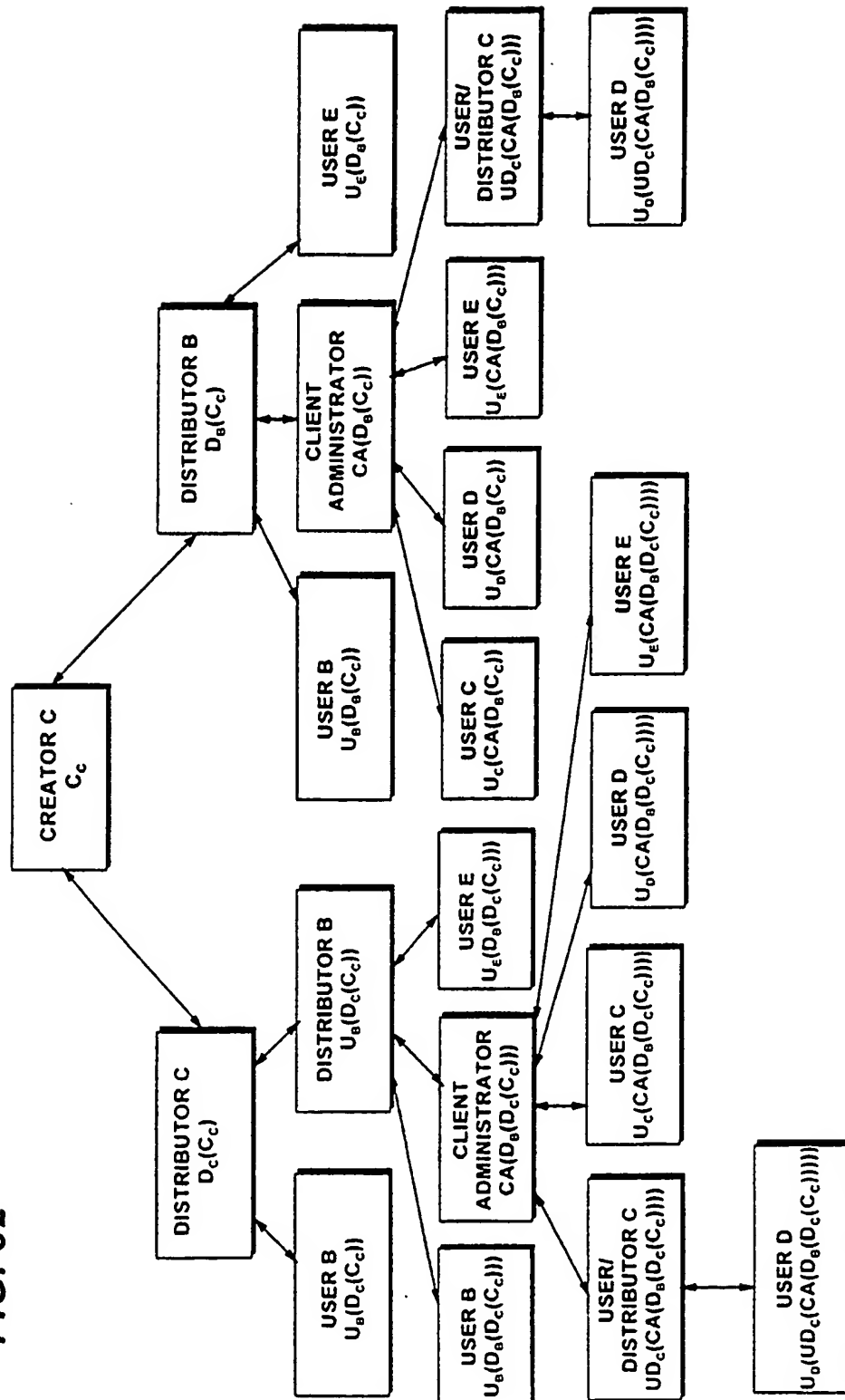


FIG. 81

FIG. 82



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FIG. 83

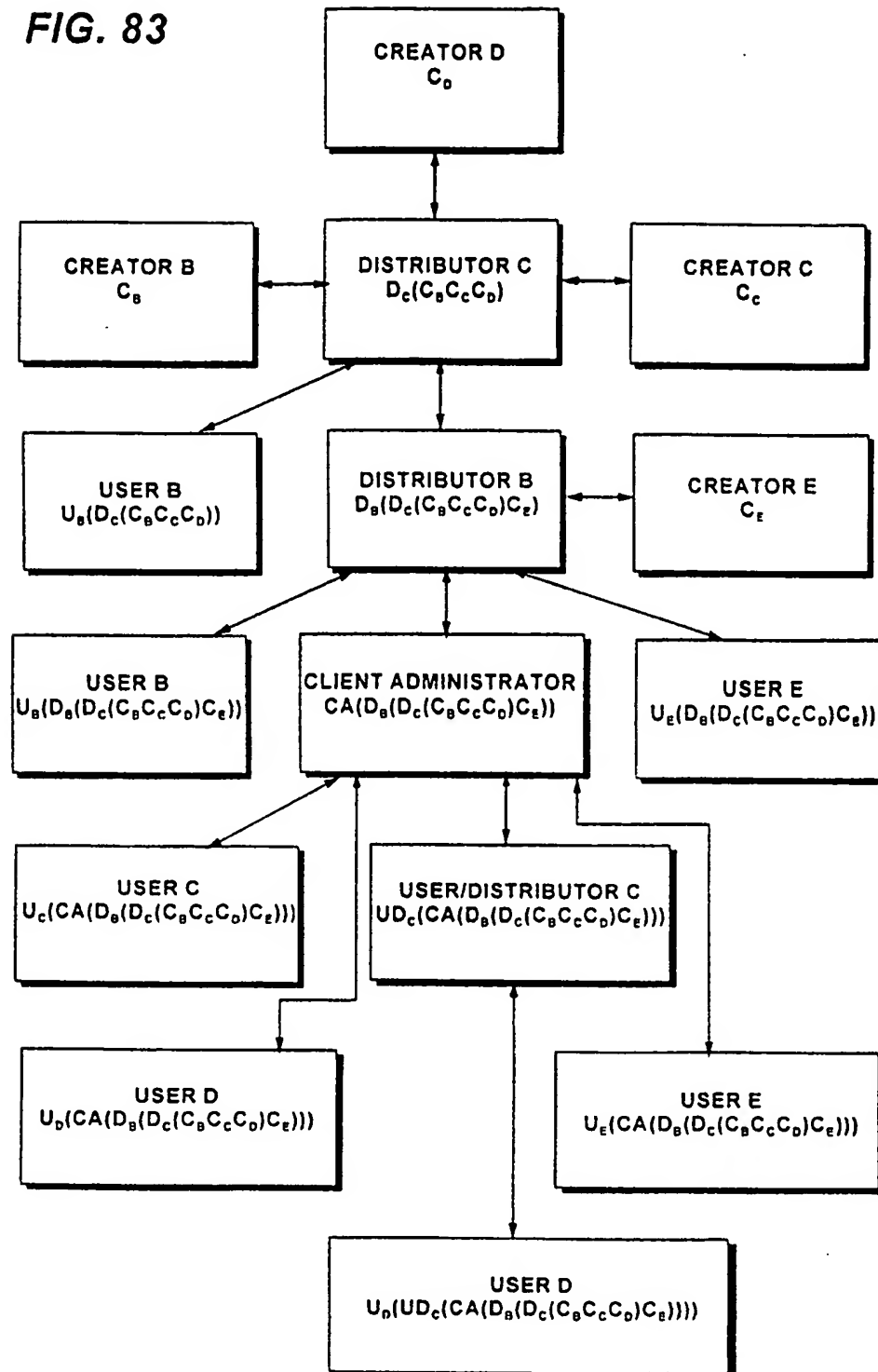
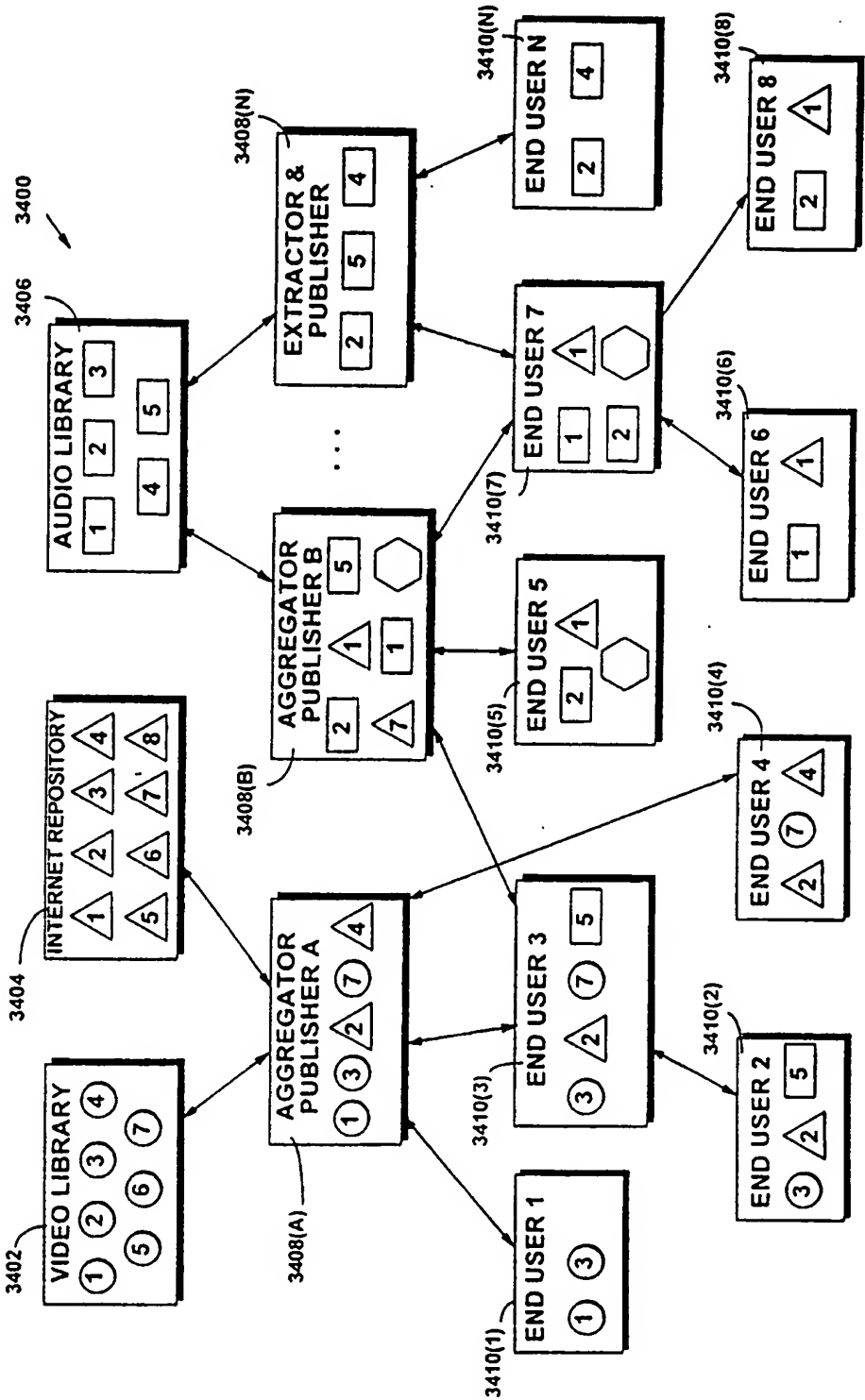
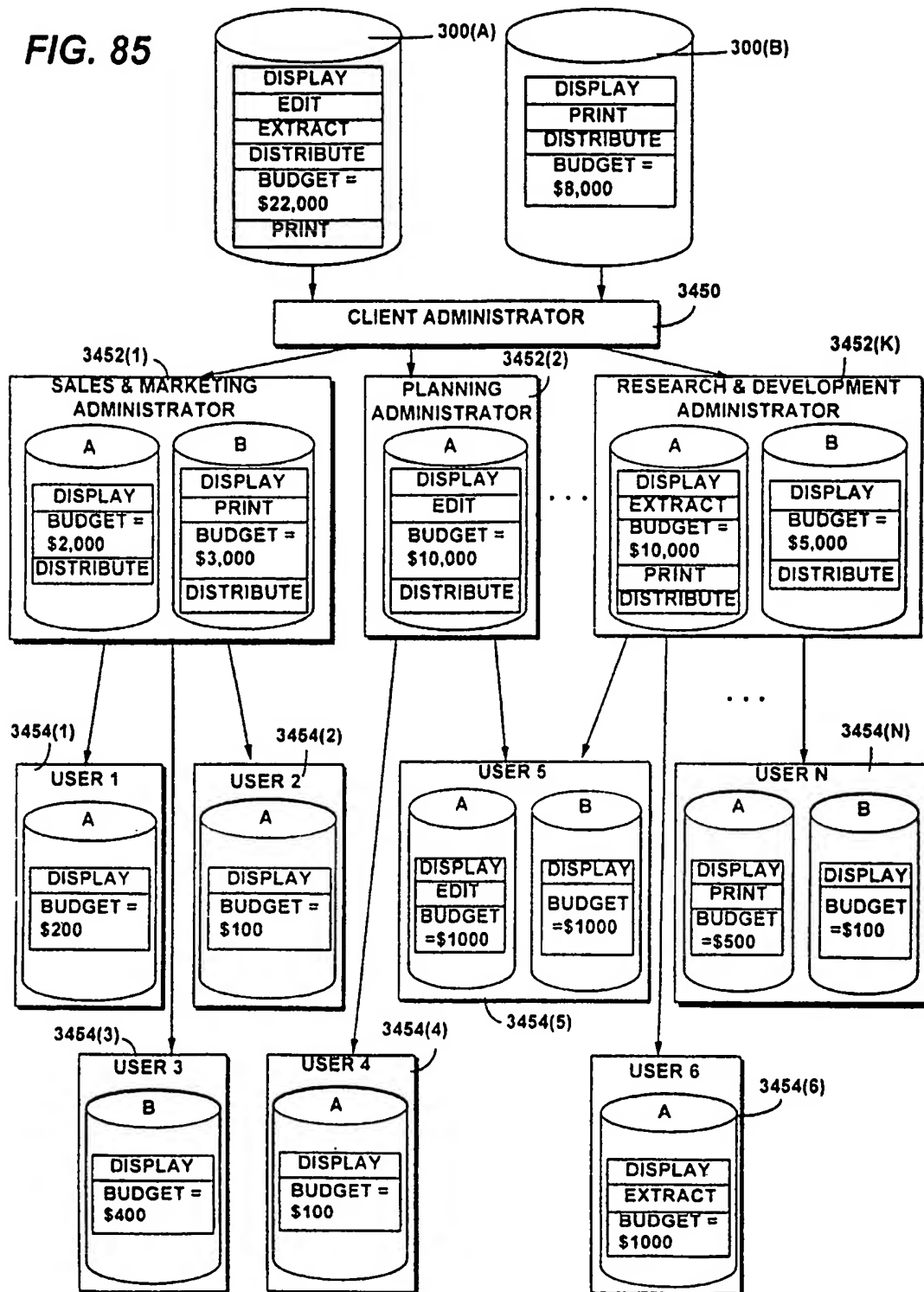


FIG. 84

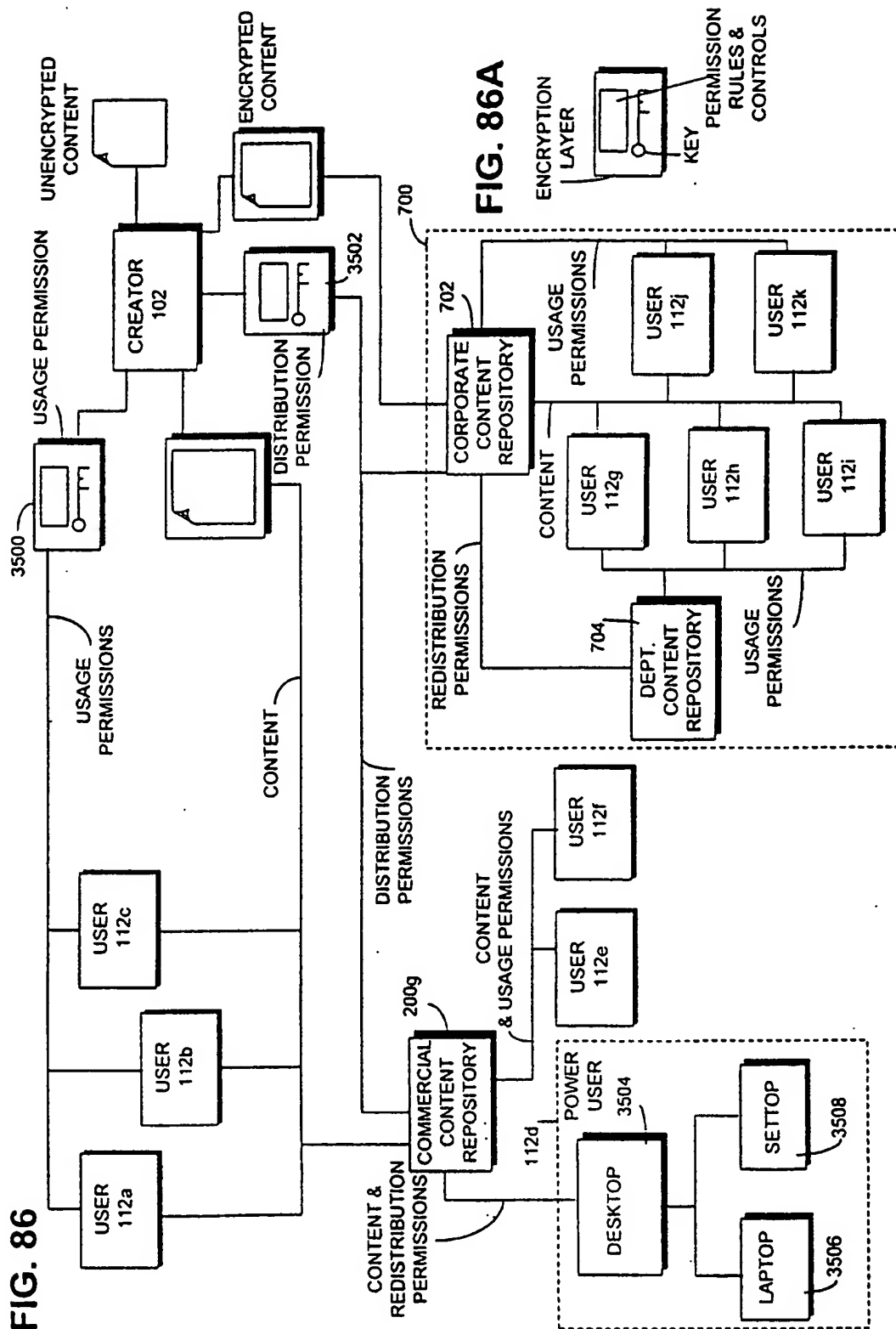


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FIG. 85



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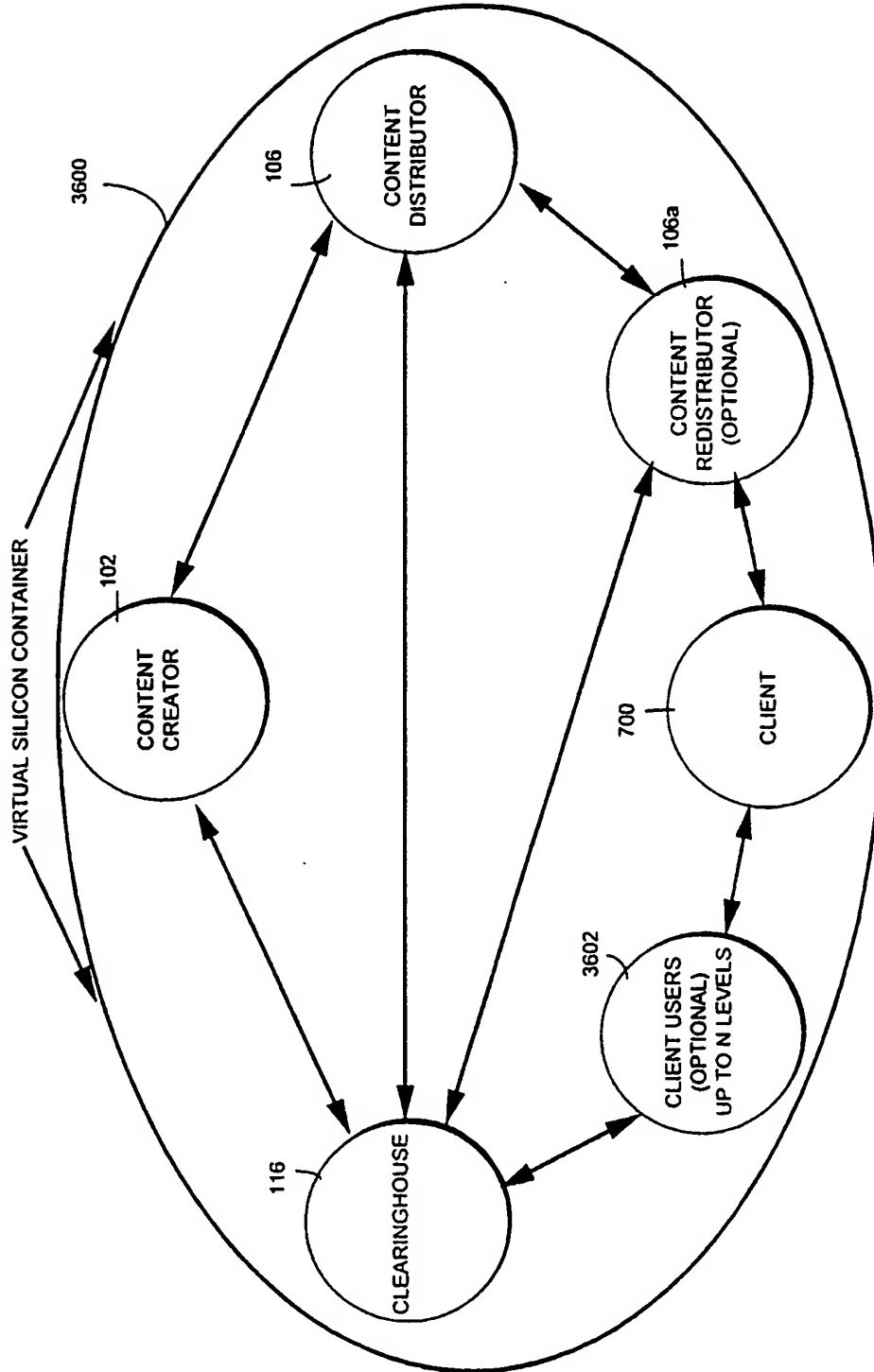


FIG. 87

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